

Freeport-McMoRan Sierrita Inc. 6200 W. Duval Mine Rd. PO Box 527 Green Valley, Arizona 85622-0527

April 17, 2008

<u>Via Certified Mail # 7007 320 0001 8578 2309</u> <u>Return Receipt Requested</u>

Mr. Robert Casey Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Enforcement Unit 1110 West Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2935

Re:

Mitigation Order on Consent

No. P-50-06 Proposed Project Schedule Revision

Dear Mr. Casey:

In accordance with Section III.H of Mitigation Order on Consent No. P-50-06, Freeport-McMoRan Sierrita Inc. (Sierrita), formerly Phelps Dodge Sierrita, Inc., submits this request to revise the project schedule for the Feasibility Study and Mitigation Plan. Sierrita's October 31, 2006, Work Plan to Characterize and Mitigate Sulfate with Respect to Drinking Water Supplies in the Vicinity of the Phelps Dodge Sierrita Tailing Impoundment, Pima County, Arizona, established April 30, 2008, and June 30, 2008, due dates for the completion of a Feasibility Study and a Mitigation Plan, respectively. In order to maintain this schedule, Sierrita had anticipated receiving Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's (ADEQ) comments on the Final Aquifer Characterization Report by February 2008. However, based on your discussion with Mr. Stuart Brown on April 10, 2008, Sierrita will not actually receive ADEQ's comments on the Final Aquifer Characterization Report until later this month. We understand that ADEQ's comments will raise issues potentially affecting the Feasibility Study schedule, and given their receipt by Sierrita, less than two weeks before the Feasibility Study was to be submitted to ADEQ, it will likely not be possible to adequately address ADEQ's comments and to finalize the Feasibility Study and Mitigation Plan as per the October 31, 2006, schedule.

Sierrita proposes a meeting with ADEQ in the near future to resolve these comments. A revised schedule for submittal of the Feasibility Study and Mitigation Plan will be submitted to ADEQ along with written responses to ADEQ's comments following this meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Stuart Brown at (503) 675-5252 or myself at (520) 648-8857 if you have any question regarding this submittal.

Sincerely,

E. L. (Ned) Hall

Chief Environmental Engineer



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xc:

Joan Card, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

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John Broderick, Sierrita Chad Fretz, Sierrita

Ray Lazuk, Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. Stuart Brown, Bridgewater Group, Inc. Jim Norris, Hydro Geo Chem, Inc.