



Bisbee Facts from FCX

Sulfate Impacting Groundwater Near Naco

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- Groundwater in an area south of the historic tailing dam has been impacted by sulfate.
- The chemical compound sulfate is a kind of salt associated with oxidation of sulfide minerals found in Bisbee and elsewhere and is not considered toxic by regulators.
- Sulfate may affect the taste and odor of water and in some instances create a mild, short-term laxative effect in elevated concentrations.
- Freeport-McMoRan is working with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to determine the extent of the sulfate impact on groundwater between the old tailing dam on the north, Bisbee Junction on the south and Naco to the west.
- Water wells that supply the vast majority of Bisbee area residents have not been adversely affected by the sulfate levels.
- Individuals with private wells showing sulfate levels above government-recommended levels of 250 milligrams per liter have been offered bottled water by the company.
- A work plan has been submitted to ADEQ to characterize and mitigate sulfate with respect to drinking water supplies.
- A Community Advisory Group of area citizens meets quarterly to hear updates on the sulfate characterization program and to monitor progress under the proposed work plan.

