

Sierrita Facts from FCX

Using Water Wisely

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- Water is a precious commodity everywhere in the world but we respect its value even more in our desert environment.
- Every human activity consumes water and industrial operations are no exception.
- Copper miners in Arizona have worked for more than a century to bring adequate supplies of water to their operations in order to convert natural resources into economic benefits for the community and the nation.
- We work hard every day to ensure that we use water wisely. The water used to process copper and molybdenum ore at Sierrita is recycled again and again through recovery of tailings water and at our mill site.
- Sierrita's water pumping in the Canoa Ranch area south of Green Valley started in the 1970s and impacts to groundwater levels in the area have been minimal by any reasonable standard. Experts tell us that the aquifer in the area is hundreds of feet deep.
- Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. is committed to responsible operations at all its sites worldwide. Sierrita is looking for new ways to conserve water while maintaining production of the essential metals the modern world demands.
- According to available Arizona Department of Water Resources records, it is estimated that less than 2% of the water consumed in Arizona is consumed by mines. Still, Arizona produces enough copper and other metals to rank the state first in the nation in the production of nonfuel minerals.
- Arizona supplies the majority of newly mined copper to America, which is still a net importer of copper.
- Such economic benefit truly demonstrates the wise use of a precious resource.

