

Sierrita Operations 6200 W. Duval Mine Rd. PO Box 527 Green Valley, AZ 85622-0527

March 31, 2008

<u>Via Certified Mail # 7006 2150 0004 3661 3035</u> Return Receipt Requested

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

January 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008 Status Report

Dear Mr. Casey:

In accordance with Section V.A. of Mitigation Order on Consent No. P-50-06, Phelps Dodge Sierrita, Inc., now doing business as Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Sierrita Operations (Sierrita) submits the Status Report covering the period from January 1, 2008, through March 31, 2008.

Since the last Status Report was submitted, the following measures have been taken under Section III of the Mitigation Order:

- Sierrita completed first quarter 2008 groundwater monitoring activities.
- On January 28, 2008, Sierrita held the fourth 2007 Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting as required by Section III.G of the Mitigation Order. Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) approved deferring the fourth 2007 CAG meeting to January 2008 to satisfy a request by the CAG that they have time to review documents submitted to ADEQ at the end of December 2007.
- On January 31, 2008, Sierrita submitted a letter requesting that ADEQ approve limiting the analysis of groundwater samples to dissolved sulfate during future rounds of quarterly groundwater monitoring because prior sampling results demonstrate that there is a negligible difference between dissolved and total sulfate analytical results.
- On March 20, 2008, Sierrita submitted to ADEQ the *Groundwater Monitoring Report for First Quarter 2008 Tasks 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4 of Aquifer Characterization Plan for Mitigation Order on Consent No. P-50-06.*

During the next quarter, the following activities will be completed:

- Hold the next CAG meeting during second quarter 2008.
- Contingent on ADEQ comments on the Focused Feasibility Study and Aquifer Characterization Report, Sierrita will submit the Feasibility Study by April 30, 2008.
- Contingent on ADEQ comments on the Focused Feasibility Study and Aquifer Characterization Report, Sierrita will submit the Mitigation Plan by June 30, 2008.

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• Complete second quarter 2008 groundwater monitoring activities by June 30, 2008.

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.

Very Truly Yours,

E. L. (Ned) Hall

Chief Environmental Engineer

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xc:

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Stuart Brown, Bridgewater Group, Inc. Jim Norris, Hydro Geo Chem, Inc.