



# Snapshot

## Resolution Copper Project – Tailings Alternatives

### #2: Near West – Wet {Modified Proposed Action}

#### **SUMMARY**

This alternative is a variation of the proposed action described in the May 9, 2016, version of Resolution Copper’s General Plan of Operations. In early 2018, Resolution Copper changed its original plan for an ‘upstream’ dam design to a ‘modified centerline’ configuration for a tailings storage facility (TSF).

Alternative 2 would include a split-stream tailings processing method with two tailings types:

- Non-potentially acid generating (NPAG) tailings (also known as scavenger tailings)
- Potentially acid generating (PAG) tailings (also known as pyrite tailings)

PAG tailings have a greater potential to oxidize and generate acidic seepage to groundwater or surface waters. To minimize this potential, PAG tailings would be deposited centrally in the TSF and surrounded by NPAG tailings. A 5- to 10-foot deep water cap would saturate PAG tailings to reduce exposure to oxygen during TSF development.

Additionally, the larger NPAG deposit would act as a buffer between the PAG tailings and areas outside the TSF. Water spigots would keep the NPAG

tailings “beach” area wet, ensuring effective dust management.

Modified Centerline dam construction would consist of earthfill and cyclone sand from the NPAG tailings stream. This sand results from tailings processed through one or more dedicated centrifuges to separate larger tailings particles from the finer particles.

A combination of geomembrane liners, compacted fine tailings and/or a “grouting” process to seal ground fractures would limit and contain seepage. Uncontained seepage would be collected in downstream ponds and pumped back to the TSF.

#### **Location:**

Tonto National Forest - 3 miles west of Superior and 3 miles east of Queen Valley

#### **Numbers:**

3,309 acres – disturbance footprint at tailings storage

4,909 acres - total footprint within fenceline for auxiliary facilities and tailings storage

78 acres – additional disturbance for a 5.3-mile pipeline corridor to convey tailings

520 feet – height of tailings dam

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#### **ALTERNATIVES OVERVIEW**

The National Environmental Policy Act requires the Forest Service to investigate alternatives to the various aspects of the proposed action as part of the Environmental Impact Statement process for the Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange.

Alternatives are a mix of reasonable strategies that meet the purpose of and need for the proposed action, while resolving or addressing key issues identified during scoping.

In addition to the No Action Alternative (sequentially known as Alternative #1), the Forest Service is considering five reasonable “action” alternatives. A Draft EIS document will include an alternatives chapter that expands on each reasonable alternative. The Forest Service is projecting a June 2019 release of the Draft EIS.

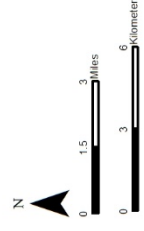
Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange info is available online at:

<http://www.resolutionmineeis.us/>.

**RESOLUTION COPPER  
PROJECT AND  
LAND EXCHANGE  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT**

**Legend**

- Cities
- Arizona Trail
- Project Area
- Tailings Storage Facility
- Land Ownership
- Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- Private/Other
- State



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