



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto National Forest

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File Code: 2810

Date: December 5, 2014

Victoria Peacey
Senior Manager Environment & External Affairs
Resolution Copper Mining
102 Magma Heights - P.O. Box 1944
Superior, AZ 85173

Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested #7011 2970 0000 3606 5621

RE: Resolution Copper Mining, General Mine Plan of Operations, Completeness Review

Dear Ms. Peacey:

The Tonto National Forest has completed its review of the revised General Plan of Operations (Plan) for the Resolution Copper Mine Project that was submitted on September 23, 2014. Our review has determined that the Plan is complete in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and policy. The original Plan of Operations was submitted on November 15, 2013 and additional information was subsequently provided by you during the course of the review period. Formal and informal review comments were provided by the Tonto National Forest during the review period and have been satisfactorily addressed in the Plan.

The purpose of our review was to evaluate the completeness of information contained within the Plan in accordance with the Federal Code of Regulations (CFR) at 36 CFR Part 228 – Minerals. These regulations require, among other things, a relatively complete description of the project for the estimated period of operation and identification of environmental protection measures to minimize adverse environmental impacts to National Forest System surface resources.

Please note that this completeness certification does not constitute approval of the Plan. In accordance with 36 CFR 228.5 (a) 5, the Plan cannot be approved until a final environmental statement has been prepared and filed with the Council on Environmental Quality. The timing for beginning the final environmental statement is somewhat contingent upon the completion of the on-going but separate Environmental Assessment for “Baseline Hydrological and Geotechnical Data Gathering Activities” and the subsequent acquisition of important sub-surface data to inform baseline conditions and provide needed geotechnical and hydrological data for the proposed tailings facilities site.

We will continue to work with you on the completion of the on-going Environmental Assessment and the subsequent start of the environmental review statement for the Plan as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

Thank you for your complete submission of the Plan. Please contact me if you have questions concerning this letter.

Sincerely,

NEIL J. BOSWORTH
Forest Supervisor

cc: Richard D Reitz, Tom Torres, Gary Hanna

