



Snapshot

Resolution Copper Project – Tailings Alternatives

#3: Near West – Dry {Modified Proposed Action}

SIMILARITIES WITH ALTERNATIVE 2

Represents a variation of the proposed action described in the May 2016 General Plan of Operations.

Change in dam design for a tailings storage facility (TSF) to a ‘modified centerline’ configuration consisting of earthfill and cycloned sand.

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)

Use of geomembrane liners, compacted fine tailings and/or a “grouting” process to seal ground fractures would limit and contain seepage, along with downstream seepage collection ponds.

Location on the Tonto National Forest would be identical to Alternative 2.

Numbers:

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

DIFFERENCES WITH ALTERNATIVE 2

Use of physical barriers to segregate PAG tailings in a separate cell from NPAG tailings. Cycloned sand would be used to build low-permeability ‘splitter berms’ between the two tailing storage areas.

Proposal to reduce initial amounts of water retained in NPAG tailings and encourage rapid evaporation as well as reduce seepage potential through:

- Additional on-site thickening of NPAG tailings; increasing thickness by 5 percent
- ‘Thin-lift’ (also known as thin layer) deposition

Fewer estimated number of years to close the reclaim pond. By using thin-lift methods that reduce water left behind with the tailings, officials estimate closure in 5 years compared to a 25-year estimate in Alternative #2.

Numbers:

3,308 acres – disturbance footprint at tailings storage

510 feet – height of tailings dam

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

