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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Vicky Peacey, Resolution Copper

FROM: Ted Eary, Enchemica

DATE: July 17, 2018

SUBJECT: Alternative 6 - Skunk Camp: Prediction of Operational Tailings Circuit Solute Chemistry

1 INTRODUCTION

The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Resolution Copper mine includes assessment of the following tailings storage facility alternatives:

- Alternative 1: No Action
- Alternative 2: Near West Modified Proposed Action
- Alternative 3: Near West Modified Proposed Action – Thin Lift/Pag Cell
- Alternative 4: Silver King Filtered
- Alternative 5: Peg Leg
- Alternative 6: Skunk Camp

Water balances models have been developed for each of these alternatives. These water balance models have been augmented by the addition of chemical balances. The purpose of this memo is to provide a description of the predictions of the chemical balance and resulting solute chemistry for Alternative 6.

2 MODEL SETUP

2.1 Software

The predictive model was developed with a combination of GoldSim (version 12.0) and PHREEQC (Parkhurst and Appelo, 2013; version 3.0). GoldSim was used for the water and chemical mass balance components of the model. PHREEQC was used to simulate reactive processes that affect water chemistry. The WATEQ4F.DAT thermodynamic database was used for the PHREEQC calculations. The chemical portions of the model included calculations for:

- Ca, Mg, Na, K, Cl, HCO₃, SO₄, Si, F, NO₃-N, Al, Sb, As, Ba, Be, B, Cd, Cr, Co, Cu, Fe, Pb, Mn, Mo, Ni, Se, Ag, Tl, Zn, and pH

The PHREEQC geochemical model was integrated directly into the GoldSim water balance model, so that changes to water chemistry resulting from reactive processes are made at each time step in the simulations and incorporated directly into the simulation results.

2.2 Input Data

A common set of inputs for water chemistry and flow rates from the block cave mine was used for all TSF alternatives. These inputs are described in Enchemica (2018).

2.3 Simulation Period

The simulation period was 41 years, which represents the life of mine per the mine plan of operations. A 3-day time step was used. Both the water balance and PHREEQC calculations are conducted at each time step. A 3-day timestep was found to be short enough to prevent potential mass transfer warnings from GoldSim while being long enough to yield reasonably short model run times.

3 WATER BALANCE

A model of the water balance for Alternative 6 was developed by KCB. The boundaries of the KCB water balance model included the West Plant, tailings storage facility (TSF), and seepage collection systems. The details of the water balance relevant to the solute balance are provided in KCB (2018).

3.1 Makeup Water

The KCB water balance model provided calculations of the rate of reclaim water flow to the West Plant and the total demand for additional makeup water needed for ore processing at the West Plant. There are four sources of water for ore processing:

- **Reclaim water:** Excess water pumped from the Pyrite Pond – this flow is provided by the KCB water balance model.
- **Makeup water:**
 - **Ore moisture:** Ore entering the West Plant is estimated to contain 4% by weight of water.
 - **Block cave sump water:** The block cave mine is expected to have an excess amount of water that will be pumped to the surface providing a source of makeup water.
 - **Freshwater:** The demand for makeup water beyond the flow from the block cave mine will be comprised of a mixture of freshwater from the Central Arizona Project canal and well fields.

Figure 3-1 shows simulation results for process water sources. Freshwater makeup is generally the largest water source for ore processing followed by reclaim water, block cave sump water, and ore moisture. At certain times the model indicates low flows of overflow water, such as near the end of mining when the available water as reclaim water and block cave sump water are exceeded what would be needed for ore processing at the West Plant. It is assumed the excess water would be managed as either a discharge (if water quality is acceptable) or evaporated.

Each of the makeup water sources has a different chemical composition. The details about the chemical compositions of makeup water are provided in Enchemica (2018).

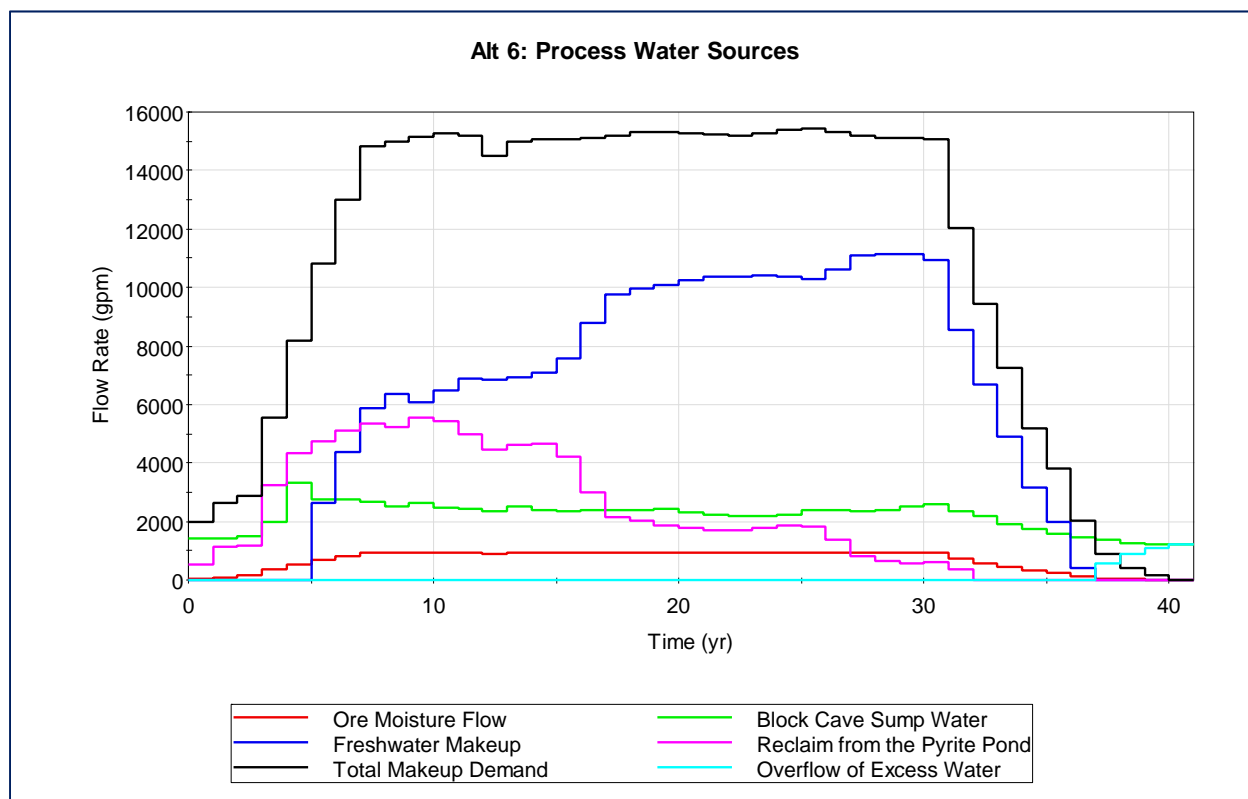


Figure 3-1. Simulation results for process water sources

4 CALCULATION SEQUENCE FOR SOLUTE CHEMISTRY

The calculation sequence in the solute model is:

- Chemical loads are defined for all water sources entering the TSF system by multiplication of flow rates times concentrations. Descriptions of the source water chemistries are in Enchemica (2018).
- The chemical loads are converted to concentrations at locations of water mixing and storage.
- The concentrations are equilibrated with PHREEQC for aqueous speciation, solubility, and adsorption. The set of equilibria processes for PHREEQC are described in Enchemica (2018). There are four locations where PHREEQC is applied to produced equilibrated water chemistries:
 - **West Plant:** mixture of water entering the Plant
 - **Embankment:** water contained in the pore space of the embankment
 - **Seepage Collection Ponds:** the water balance lumps all seepage collections ponds into a single water reservoir. Predictions of water chemistry are made for this single reservoir.
 - **Pyrite Pond:** storage of water over the pyrite tailings used for reclaim to the West Plant. The Pyrite Pond and tailings comprise the single source of seepage in the water balance indicated to have the potential to bypass collection systems; hence, designated as Lost Seepage. In the solute balance model, the chemistry of Lost Seepage is assumed to be the same as the equilibrated chemistry determined for the Pyrite Pond. Reactions and mixing of Lost Seepage with groundwater in flow paths from the TSF are not included in the modeling logic.

Transport of Lost Seepage along flow paths is the subject of associated modeling studies by Montgomery and Associates.

- Equilibrated water chemistries are multiplied by flow rates to move chemical loads through the water distribution system.

5 RESULTS

A full set of results from the model are provided in tables below as annual average concentrations. The tables are organized as follows:

- Table 5-1: Pyrite Pond and Lost Seepage

	Ca	Mg	Na	K	Cl	HC O ₃	SO ₄	Si	F	NO ₃ -N	Al	Sb	As	Ba	Be	B	Cd	Cr	Co	Cu	Fe	Pb	Mn	Mo	Ni	Se	Ag	Tl	Zn	pH	TD S
Year	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L
1	75	23	43	29	20	23	33	9.3	1.1	2.0	0.1	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.001	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.55
2	10	3	30	56	40	27	28	45	12	0	1.4	2.9	0.3	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	7.74
3	12	3	31	60	46	30	28	52	13	0	1.5	3.5	0.4	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	7.84
4	14	8	33	64	55	35	26	59	14	2	1.7	4.0	0.5	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	7.96	
5	16	9	32	68	70	42	26	66	16	0	2.0	3.9	0.7	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	7.10	
6	17	6	31	73	80	57	25	68	16	2	2.3	3.4	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	7.11	
7	16	7	31	78	79	73	26	64	14	6	2.5	2.9	1.1	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	7.11	
8	16	4	31	82	79	83	26	63	13	7	2.6	2.6	1.2	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	7.11	
9	16	7	33	86	81	90	27	64	13	4	2.7	2.6	1.3	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	7.11	
10	17	4	34	89	84	95	27	67	13	2	2.8	2.7	1.3	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	7.11	
11	17	8	35	92	86	98	27	68	13	8	2.8	2.7	1.3	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.1	7.12	
12	18	0	35	94	87	2	27	69	13	8	2.9	2.8	1.3	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.1	7.12	
13	18	3	36	97	88	5	27	71	14	1	2.9	2.9	1.3	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.1	7.12	
14	18	6	37	10	90	8	27	72	14	4	3	3.0	1.2	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.1	7.12	
15	18	8	38	1	91	0	27	73	14	4	5	2.9	1.2	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.1	7.13	
16	19	1	39	4	92	3	26	74	14	6	2.9	3.1	1.2	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.1	7.13	
17	19	4	40	7	93	8	26	76	14	9	2.9	3.2	1.2	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.2	7.13	
18	19	8	42	3	94	5	26	78	15	3	2.9	3.3	1.1	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.2	7.13	
19	20	1	44	8	95	1	26	80	15	6	2.9	3.4	1.1	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.2	7.14	
20	20	4	46	3	97	7	26	81	15	9	2.9	3.6	1.1	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.3	7.14	
21	20	9	47	8	99	3	26	84	16	3	2.9	3.7	1.1	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.3	7.15	
22	21	21	49	13	10	14	26	86	16	2.9	3.8	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.3	7.15	

	4		3	2	9		7	7		7	038	103	18	032	2	06	36	77	94	717	013	6	07	84	25	29	017	8	91	54	
23	21	8	51	13	10	15	88	17.		1.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.4	7.	15	
	22	1	52	14	10	15	90	17.		1.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.4	7.	16	
24	22	1	52	14	10	15	90	17.		1.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.4	7.	16	
	22	4	53	14	10	16	91	17.		1.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.4	7.	16	
25	22	4	53	14	10	16	91	17.		1.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.4	7.	16	
	22	6	54	14	10	16	92	17.		0.9	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.4	7.	16	
26	22	6	54	14	10	16	92	17.		0.9	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.4	7.	16	
	23	1	55	14	11	16	94	17.		0.9	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.4	7.	17	
27	23	1	55	14	11	16	94	17.		0.9	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.4	7.	17	
	23	9	58	15	11	17	98	18.		0.9	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.5	7.	17	
28	23	9	58	15	11	17	98	18.		0.9	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.5	7.	17	
	24	8	61	16	11	18	10	19.		0.8	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.5	7.	18	
29	24	8	61	16	11	18	10	19.		0.8	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.5	7.	18	
	25	9	64	17	12	19	11	19.		0.8	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.6	7.	19	
30	25	9	64	17	12	19	11	19.		0.8	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.6	7.	19	
	26	9	67	18	12	20	11	19.		0.7	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.6	7.	20	
31	26	9	67	18	12	20	11	19.		0.7	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.6	7.	20	
	28	4	71	19	13	21	11	19.		0.7	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.7	7.	21	
32	28	4	71	19	13	21	11	19.		0.7	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.7	7.	21	
	31	1	78	21	14	23	13	19.		0.6	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.8	7.	23	
33	31	1	78	21	14	23	13	19.		0.6	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.8	7.	23	
	35	4	90	24	16	26	15	19.		0.5	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.3	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.0	7.	26	
34	35	4	90	24	16	26	15	19.		0.5	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.3	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.0	7.	26	
	39	10	27	18	30		16	19.		0.4	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.4	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.2	7.	30	
35	39	10	27	18	30		16	19.		0.4	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.4	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.2	7.	30	
	41	11	29	19	32		18	19.		0.4	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.5	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.3	7.	31	
36	41	11	29	19	32		18	19.		0.4	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.5	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.3	7.	31	
	43	12	32	19	35		19	19.		0.4	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.5	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.3	7.	33	
37	43	12	32	19	35		19	19.		0.4	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.5	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.3	7.	33	
	48	13	36	21	39		21	19.		10.	0.3	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.7	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.5	7.	37
38	48	13	36	21	39		21	19.		10.	0.3	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.7	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.5	7.	37
	55	16	42	24	45		24	19.		12.	0.3	0.0	0.01	0.0	0.00	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.9	0.9	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	2.8	7.	43
39	55	16	42	24	45		24	19.		12.	0.3	0.0	0.01	0.0	0.00	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.001	0.0	1.9	0.9	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	2.8	7.	43
	57	18	48	27	52		26	19.		14.	0.3	0.0	0.01	0.0	0.00	1.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.001	0.0	2.2	1.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	3.2	7.	48
40	57	18	48	27	52		26	19.		14.	0.3	0.0	0.01	0.0	0.00	1.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.001	0.0	2.2	1.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	3.2	7.	48
	57	21	56	31	61		28	19.		16.	0.2	0.0	0.01	0.0	0.00	1.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.001	0.0	2.6	1.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	3.7	7.	52
41	57	21	56	31	61		28	19.		16.	0.2	0.0	0.01	0.0	0.00	1.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.001	0.0	2.6	1.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	3.7	7.	52

- Table 5-2: Seepage Collection Ponds
- Table 5-3: Embankment

5.1 Pyrite Pond and Lost Seepage

Examples of model results are shown in Figure 5-1 for Lost Seepage as average annual concentrations for the 41-year operational mine life. For this alternative, Lost Seepage represents seepage from the Pyrite Pond and that bypasses collection systems and enter the bedrock foundation. The Lost Seepage is assumed to have the same water chemistry as its source of the Pyrite Pond. The following observations for the Pyrite Pond-Lost Seepage water chemistry:

- Figure 5-1a - pH: The pH is predicted to range between about 7.8 and 7.9 for the entirety of the 41-year operational mine life.
- Figure 5-1b – major anions: Sulfate is the dominant anion at concentrations from 350 to 2880 mg/L. Chloride is next in importance with concentrations from 20 to 600 mg/L followed by HCO₃ at concentrations from 20 to 28 mg/L, nitrate-N at concentrations from 2 to 16 mg/L, and fluoride at concentrations from 1.0 to 2.9 mg/L.

- Figure 5-1c – divalent metals: Zinc is predicted to have the highest concentrations, ranging between 0.2 and 3.6 mg/L. Copper concentrations are predicted to be relatively constant at about 0.2 mg/L due to equilibrium with malachite. Concentrations of the other divalent metals are not limited by solubility. Nickel and cobalt are predicted to range from 0.02 to 0.3 mg/L. Concentrations of cadmium and lead are predicted to be less than 0.017 and 0.01 mg/L, respectively.
- Figure 5-1d: anionic metals and metalloids: Molybdenum concentrations are the highest for this group at concentrations from 0.2 to 1.2 mg/L. Selenium is next at concentrations from 0.04 to 0.4 mg/L. Arsenic concentrations are lower but variable at concentrations from 0.001 to 0.09 mg/L.

The trends shown in Figure 5-1 are due to the following factors:

- Concentrations of most solutes start out lowest during the early years due to low rates of ore production and a relatively higher amount of freshwater makeup during the initial period of operation.
- Concentrations of most solutes increase during the early years of operations due to evaporation and then tend to remain relatively constant (years 10 to 30) as the ratio of freshwater makeup balances the evaporative losses.
- Concentrations of most solutes reach maximums near the end of the operational period. This result is due to inter-dependent factors: one factor is that the demand for freshwater makeup starts to decrease near the end of the operational period relative to the flow of water from the block cave because the rate of ore production is projected to decrease. Water from the block cave has higher concentrations of most solutes compared to other water sources, resulting in increased concentrations. A second factor is evaporation of water in the Pyrite Pond, which also contributes to increased concentrations once freshwater makeup is decreased near the end of the operational period. A third factor is that freshwater makeup direct to the Pyrite Pond is needed to maintain the water cover over the pyrite tailings. Freshwater makeup has relatively high As concentrations compared to other makeup sources, resulting in a higher rate of increase in As concentrations toward the end of the operation period relative to other solutes.

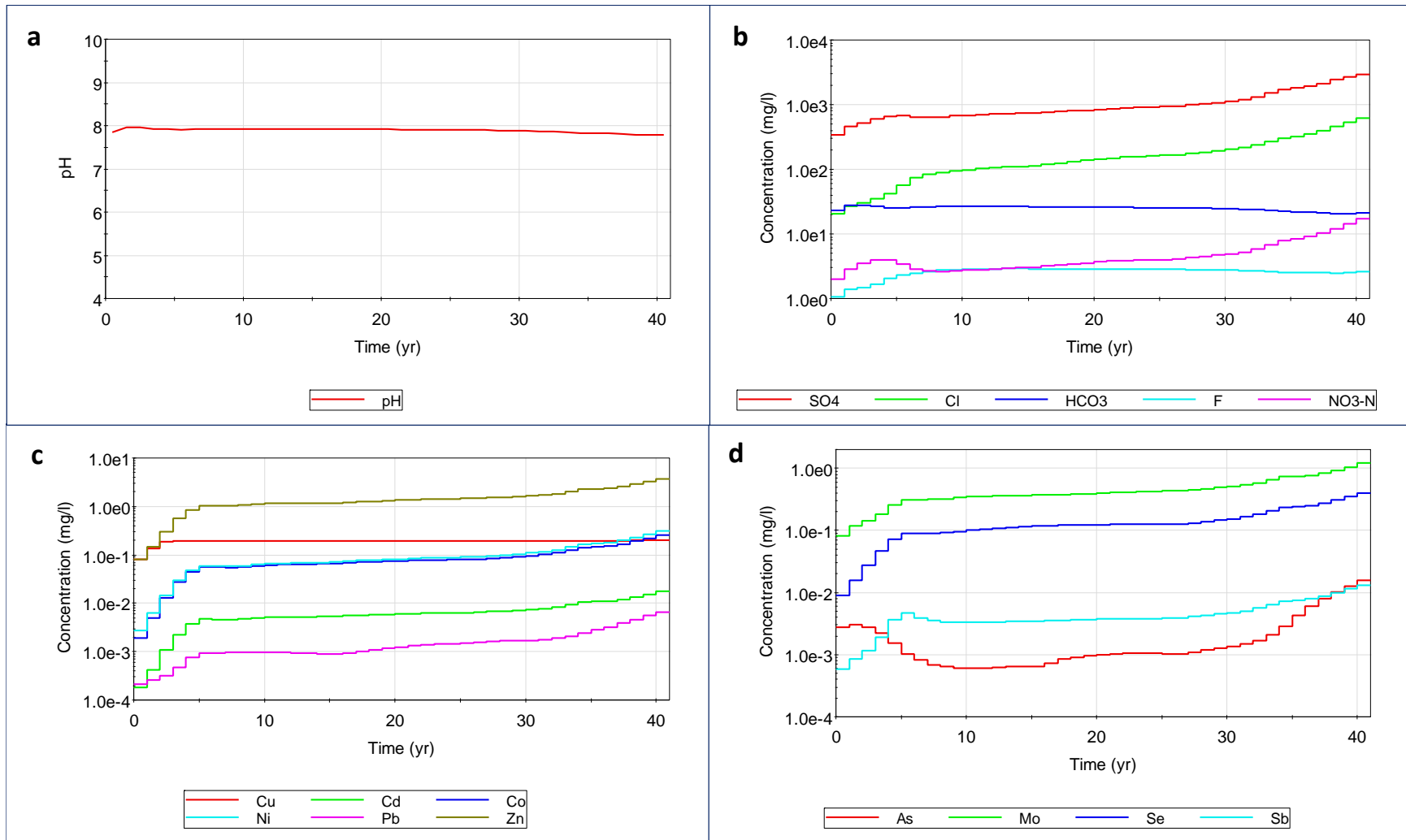


Figure 5-1. Predictions of average annual concentrations in Lost Seepage for a) pH, b) major anions, c) divalent metals, and d) anionic metals and metalloids

6 REFERENCES

Enchemica (2018) Water Chemistry Inputs for Operational Models of Tailings Circuit Solute Chemistry. Technical Memo from T. Eary (Enchemica) to V. Peacey (Resolution Copper), July 18, 2018.

KCB (2018) GoldSim water balance model, received from Klohn Crippen Berger (KCB) on May 11, 2018 (documentation to be provided in future.)

Parkhurst, D.L. and Appelo, C.A.J. (2013) Description of Input and Examples for PHREEQC Version 3 – A Computer Program for Speciation, Batch-Reaction, One-Dimensional Transport, and Inverse Geochemical Calculations. U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods, Book 6, Chapter A43, 497 p, available only at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/06/a43>.

July 20, 2018

Ms. Mary Rasmussen
US Forest Service
Supervisor's Office
2324 East McDowell Road
Phoenix, AZ 85006-2496

Subject: Response to Analysis Data Request #1 – Request for Analysis of Tailings Seepage – Item #2 Tailings Solute Modeling.

Dear Ms. Rasmussen,

In partial response to your letter dated March 8, 2018, the following documents are attached as requested:

2. Tailings Solute Modeling: It is our understanding that the water balance and geochemical modeling for tailings solute is being updated, specific to each alternative tailings storage facility, and including specific analysis of oxidation potential of the embankment. There is an expectation that modeling would cover both operational and post-closure time frames.

Request: RCM to provide USFS with block cave geochemical modeling.

RCM Response: As requested, please see the attached technical memorandums by Enchemica dated July 17, 2018 for the following tailing storage facilities (TSF):

- *Alternative 2 - Near West Modified Proposed Action: Prediction of Operational Tailings Circuit Solute Chemistry*
- *Alternative 3 - Near West Modified Proposed Action – Thin Lift/PAG Cell: Prediction of Operational Tailings Circuit Solute Chemistry*
- *Alternative 4 - Silver King Filtered: Prediction of Operational Tailings Circuit Solute Chemistry*
- *Alternative 5 - Peg Leg: Prediction of Operational Tailings Circuit Solute Chemistry*
- *Alternative 6 - Skunk Camp: Prediction of Operational Tailings Circuit Solute Chemistry*
- *Common Inputs Common to All Operational Models of Tailings Circuit Solute Chemistry*

Overall, there are no substantive differences in predictive solute chemistry for the alternative TSF sites with the exception of Alternative 4 (Silver King). The solute balances are useful tools for TSF

alternatives comparison, but it is also worth noting that the model likely over predicts solute chemistry due to several conservative assumptions:

1. No mitigations have been applied to the water chemistry
2. Water from the block cave mine, which has the poorest water quality and highest solute load, has first priority to meet the water demand at the West Plant (concentrator).
3. Makeup water needed at the end of the operational period are sourced from the Pyrite Pond and water from the block cave. The decrease in the amount of freshwater makeup results in less dilution of the combined effects of evaporation and inflow of chemical loads from the block cave.

Once a selected TSF has been identified, additional mitigation approaches may be incorporated as needed.

Sincerely,



Vicky Peacey,

Senior Manager, Environment, Permitting and Approvals; Resolution Copper Company, as Manager of Resolution Copper Mining, LLC

Cc: Ms. Mary Morissette; Senior Environmental Specialist; Resolution Copper Company

Enclosure(s)

Technical Memorandum by Enchemica (2018), *Alternative 2 - Near West Modified Proposed Action: Prediction of Operational Tailings Circuit Solute Chemistry*

Technical Memorandum by Enchemica (2018), *Alternative 3 - Near West Modified Proposed Action – Thin Lift/PAG Cell: Prediction of Operational Tailings Circuit Solute Chemistry*

Technical Memorandum by Enchemica (2018), *Alternative 4 - Silver King Filtered: Prediction of Operational Tailings Circuit Solute Chemistry*

Technical Memorandum by Enchemica (2018), *Alternative 5 - Peg Leg: Prediction of Operational Tailings Circuit Solute Chemistry*

Technical Memorandum by Enchemica (2018), *Alternative 6 - Skunk Camp: Prediction of Operational Tailings Circuit Solute Chemistry*

Technical Memorandum by Enchemica (2018), *Common Inputs Common to All Operational Models of Tailings Circuit Solute Chemistry*