USDA Forest Service Tonto National Forest Arizona

July 2, 2019

Process Memorandum to File

Information on Unpatented Mining Claims

This document is deliberative and is prepared by the third-party contractor in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other laws, regulations, and policies to document ongoing process and analysis steps. This document does not take the place of any Line Officer's decision space related to this project.

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Purpose of Process Memorandum

One of the issues identified to be analyzed in the environmental impact statement (EIS) is the presence of unpatented mining claims that might overlap with the proposed project footprint. Information about the unpatented mining claims associated with the proposed action were included in the General Plan of Operation submitted by Resolution Copper (figure 1.3-2 and appendix A).

In May 2019, additional unpatented claim information was requested from Resolution Copper for the other alternatives, including:

- Alternative 4 Silver King
- Alternative 5 Peg Leg, including east and west pipeline corridor options
- Alternative 6 Skunk Camp. While the tailings storage facility itself is located on private and Arizona State Trust lands, unpatented claims still could be affected by the north and south pipeline corridor options.

The purpose of this memorandum is to document the receipt of these files for the project record.

Mining Claim Information Received

Two submittals of data were received from Resolution Copper in response to the request for data:

- On June 7, 2019, the following files were received, in shapefile format:
 - "Skunk Camp_South_Cor_Claims_06-06-2019". This file contains the unpatented mining claims within the Skunk Camp south pipeline corridor.
 - "Skunk Camp_North_Cor_Claims_06-07-2019". This file contains the unpatented mining claims within the Skunk Camp north pipeline corridor.
 - "Peg_Leg_West_Cor_Claims_06-07-2019". This file contains the unpatented mining claims within the Peg Leg western pipeline corridor.
 - "Peg_Leg_East_Cor_Claims_06-07-2019". This file contains the unpatented mining claims within the Peg Leg eastern pipeline corridor.
- On June 17, 2019, the following files were received, in shapefile format:
 - "Silver_King_Alt_Claims". This file contains the unpatented mining claims within the footprint of the Silver King tailings storage facility.