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**File Code:** 2720  
**Date:** September 28, 2020

Ms. Vicky Peacey  
Senior Manager, Environment and External Affairs  
Resolution Copper Mining, LLC  
102 Magma Heights  
Superior, AZ 85173

*Sent via email to: Victoria.Peacey@RioTinto.com*

Dear Ms. Peacey:

I have reviewed your company's proposal to construct, operate, and reclaim a tailings pipeline infrastructure from Resolution Copper's West Plant Site (WPS) near Superior, Arizona across national forest system (NFS) lands administered by the Tonto National Forest, to the proposed Skunk Camp Tailings Storage Facility located on private and State trust lands in Gila County Arizona. Based on the initial documents provided (i.e. cover letter, SF-299, and attachment dated 9/07/2020), the proposal passes the first and second level screening criteria as outlined in FSH 2709.11, Chapter 10. At this time, we are prepared to accept your proposal as a formal application to be fully evaluated pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), its implementing regulations, and agency NEPA procedures as outlined in FSM 1950 and FSH 1909.15.

An administrative tracking number (#GLO478) has been assigned to this tailings pipeline special use application/authorization. Please include this application/authorization number with all future correspondence.

Before I can approve the application to proceed with construction (comprising three tailings pipelines, a recycled water pipeline, access roads, and temporary construction laydown yards), an environmental review must be completed pursuant to NEPA to determine the effect(s) the proposed use may have on the natural and human environment. Consistent with direction in PL 113-211 Section 3003(c)(9)(b), this review will involve preparation of a single environmental impact statement (EIS) and will include evaluations for compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act as the basis for all decisions under federal law related to the proposed mine and activities identified in the Resolution Copper General Plan of Operations (GPO).

Approval of this project also requires Resolution Copper Mining, LLC to submit a final General Plan of Operations, based on the terms and conditions outlined in the final Record of Decision, to



be reviewed and signed by the Forest Supervisor.

If you have any questions about the environmental review process, project documents, or your Special Use Permit, please contact your Permit Administrator, Mark McEntarffer, at 602-225-5239 or [Mark.McEntarffer@usda.gov](mailto:Mark.McEntarffer@usda.gov).

Sincerely,

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NEIL BOSWORTH  
Forest Supervisor

cc: [mark.mcentarffer@usda.gov](mailto:mark.mcentarffer@usda.gov); [mary.rasmussen@usda.gov](mailto:mary.rasmussen@usda.gov); [devin.quintana@usda.gov](mailto:devin.quintana@usda.gov)