



# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Office of the Director  
Reston, Virginia 20192

In Reply Refer To:  
Mail Stop 102  
GS17001370

SEP 21 2017

Mr. Neil Bosworth  
Forest Supervisor  
Tonto National Forest  
2324 East McDowell Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85006

Dear Mr. Bosworth:

This is in response to your letter of September 6, 2017. Thank you for inviting the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to become a participating agency on the environmental review of the Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange Environmental Impact Statement. As a science organization, the USGS does not typically take part in endeavors such as this in order to maintain a non-advocacy position relative to the project and the independence of our science comments. Therefore, we respectfully decline the invitation.

However, the USGS as part of its mission may be able to provide science support if our data and scientific expertise have direct relevance to proposed actions under the National Environmental Policy Act review. USGS assistance could include attending or making presentations at scoping and technical meetings, conducting special studies, and data collection projects if funding were available.

Your first point of contact at the USGS is Mr. Jim Leenhouts, Director of the USGS Arizona Water Science Center ([leenout@usgs.gov](mailto:leenout@usgs.gov)). Please contact Mr. Leehouts, if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

William H. Werkheiser  
Acting Director