



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern
Region

333 Broadway Boulevard, SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102-3498
FAX (505) 842-3800
V/TTY (505) 842-3292

File Code: 2160

Date: JUN 10 2015

Dear Interested Party:

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is developing an environmental cleanup plan for the Big Bug Mines (Site) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The Site is an old, abandoned mine located near Prescott, Arizona, on the Bradshaw Ranger District of the Prescott National Forest, Yavapai County. This Site consists of two primary mines, Money Metals Mine and Providence Mine, which contain waste rock and tailings created from past mining operations.

An Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) has been prepared to identify and evaluate cleanup plans to address the waste rock and tailings (mine waste material) at the Site. The EE/CA concludes that the Site has environmental concerns related to copper, lead and arsenic in the waste rock/tailings, sediment, and soil. The proposed cleanup plan is to excavate the mine waste material and encapsulate it on-site in a consolidation cell, install a gate, and construct physical safety closures at the adit and shaft.

A Fact Sheet has also been prepared which summarizes the background information and the cleanup plans to be considered. This Fact Sheet is enclosed.

We are providing a 30-day public comment period for you to comment on the proposed plan. Your comments will help us make final decisions about the cleanup which may result in a final cleanup plan that differs from the proposed plan. The final cleanup plan will be documented in a Removal Action Memorandum in July 2015. Written comments must be postmarked by June 17, 2015.

To review the EE/CA and the Administrative Record at the Bradshaw Ranger District (Prescott, AZ), please contact Frances Alvarado at 928-443-8014 for an appointment. To review the EE/CA and the Administrative Record at the Tonto National Forest's Supervisor's Office (2324 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ), please contact Anne Fischer at (602) 225-5389.

Sincerely,

SNP
CALVIN N. JOYNER
Regional Forester

Enclosure

cc: Anne Fischer, Frances Alvarado, Kirk Minckler

