

**NOTICE OF THE PRELIMINARY DECISION TO ISSUE A  
SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO AN INDIVIDUAL AQUIFER PROTECTION PERMIT**

**Public Notice No.: 09-10**

**Published on Wednesday, November 04, 2009**

**Published in the Green Valley News & Sun**

Pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code, Title 18, Chapter 9, Article 1, the Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality intends to issue an individual Aquifer Protection Permit to the following applicant(s):

**Facility Name:** Freeport-McMoRan Sierrita Inc.

**Significant Amendment to Aquifer Protection Permit No. P-101679**

**Permittee:** Freeport-McMoRan Sierrita Inc.  
P.O. Box 527  
Green Valley, AZ 85622-0527

Freeport-McMoRan Sierrita Inc. is operating an open pit mine and mineral concentration facility which is located approximately 6 miles northwest of Green Valley, in Pima County, Arizona. Green Valley lies approximately 25 miles south of the city of Tucson, Arizona. Freeport-McMoRan Sierrita Inc. (Sierrita), previously Phelps Dodge Sierrita, Inc. (PDSI), and before that Cyprus Sierrita Corporation (CSC), include conventional crushing and flotation followed by differential flotation, leaching and roasting of molybdenum disulfide, rhenium recovery, molybdenum disulfide production and packaging, molybdenum trioxide production and packaging, and leach dump, solution extraction/electrowinning.

Sierrita produces copper concentrate and cathode copper, along with molybdenum products. Copper and molybdenum are the primary products produced by Sierrita. Copper and molybdenum disulfide are produced through conventional milling and froth flotation and pure copper is produced through solution extraction and electrowinning. Molybdenum trioxide is produced through roasting. Rhenium is also recovered in the molybdenum roasting operations.

The Sierrita property consists of three open-pits: Sierrita-Esperanza pit, a molybdenum satellite pit, and the Ocotillo pit; a 115,000-ton-per-day concentrator, two molybdenum roasting plants, a ferromolybdenum plant, a rhenium plant, an oxide and low grade sulfide dump leaching operation, and copper sulfate plant. Ore production from each pit is highly variable; however, the aggregate production is limited to the capacity of the plant operation. The mine is capable of producing up to 250 million pounds of copper and, as a co-product, 25 million pounds of molybdenum, annually.

The purpose of this significant amendment is to increase of the permitted height of V Waste Rock Pile (D-56) from 3,930 feet above mean sea-level (amsl) to 4,350 ft amsl by constructing a single-lift pile. The overall height of the new stockpile plan is 500 feet.

The draft permit and related documentation are available for public review, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at ADEQ, 1110 West Washington Street, Records Management Center, Phoenix, Arizona, 85007. In Phoenix, please call (602)771-4380 or e-mail [RecordsCenter@azdeq.gov](mailto:RecordsCenter@azdeq.gov) 24 hours in advance to schedule an appointment to review the file.

Persons may submit comments or request a public hearing on the proposed action, in writing, to Richard Mendolia, Project Manager, APP & Drywell Unit, 1110 West Washington St. Phoenix, AZ 85007, within

thirty (30) days from the date of this notice. A public hearing request must include the reasons for such request.