
PRESS RELEASE

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ADEQ Soliciting Public Input on Freeport's Work Plan For Soil Sampling in the United Verde Soil Program in Clarkdale

Clarkdale, AZ (July 16, 2015) – In July, 2014, Freeport Minerals Corporation (Freeport) submitted an application with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's (ADEQ) Voluntary Remediation Program to undertake the United Verde Soil Program. According to Freeport, because the United Verde smelter operated in an era before emissions control equipment was commonly used, historical air emissions from the smelter may have deposited metal-bearing particles (lead, arsenic and copper) on nearby soil. Freeport began providing public information about the United Verde Soil Program in Clarkdale in April, 2015.

Freeport has identified an initial study area on lands located near the former smelter in Clarkdale, and proposes to conduct a soil testing program to investigate potential elevated metals concentrations in soil on properties in that area. Under the program, owners of eligible properties within the initial study area will be contacted and have the opportunity to have soil on their properties sampled and tested for smelter-related metals that are associated with the United Verde/Jerome ore body. If test results determine that metal concentrations for lead, arsenic or copper in the soil exceed Freeport's established target cleanup levels, then Freeport will offer soil replacement and landscaping restoration to impacted property owners. There is no cost to property owners to participate in the program.

In accordance with requirements in their program application, Freeport recently submitted a Sampling and Analysis Plan and a Quality Assurance Project Plan (together ADEQ refers to these documents as the "Work Plan") to provide details to ADEQ about the proposed soil sampling to be performed in Clarkdale. ADEQ has established a public comment period through August 17, 2015 so that parties wishing to submit written comments on the work plan can do so.

Copies of the Sampling and Analysis Plan and the Quality Assurance Project Plan can be found under the United Verde Soil Program section of the Town of Clarkdale's website: http://www.clarkdale.az.gov/united_verde_soil_pgm_docs_maps.htm. Hard copies of the documents are also available at the Clark Memorial Library, 39 North 9th Street in

Clarkdale and at the ADEQ Records Center, 1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, (602) 771-4380, or (800) 234-5677, ext. 6022345677; (if wishing to view records at the ADEQ Records Center, please call for hours of operation and to schedule an appointment).

PARTIES WISHING TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS regarding the Sampling and Analysis Plan for the United Verde Soil Program VRP site may do so to ADEQ, Attention: John Patricki, Voluntary Remediation Program, 1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007 or jp10@azdeq.gov and reference “United Verde Soil Program-Work Plan” in the subject line. **Comments must be postmarked or received by ADEQ no later than 5 p.m. on August 17, 2015.**