

Rosemont Copper Mine

Objection Review

Objection # (s): 0036-Rosemont

Resource Area(s): Paleontology – Mitigation (PAL-4)

Objection Issue:

- 0036-14: Rosemont requests that the discussion regarding fossil resources be modified to include the term “vertebrate” somewhere in the description. (DROD, page 34)

Remedy Supplied by Objector (if any):

0036-14: Include the term “vertebrate” somewhere in the description of fossils in the Draft ROD

Law, Regulation and/or Policy: Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508

Review Team Member Response:

The FEIS describes the paleontological resources that occur on the site [PR 047511_3, pp. 174 and 177]. This description was based on published geologic studies and a field survey of the area conducted by paleontologists. As a result of the field survey, a Potential Fossil Yield ranking was determined for the geologic units that will be mined at the Rosemont site. Based on the survey and published geologic literature, no units ranked high or very high for the potential to yield fossils occur at the site. Units that are ranked moderate do occur on site. Based on these concerns, a paleontological mitigation measure, was developed [PR 047511_6, FS-GMP-01, p. B-7]. The term “significant” is not specifically defined in this mitigation measure. A clarification will be brought forward into the Final ROD to indicate that this mitigation measure is mainly aimed at vertebrate fossils (bones, rather than shelly fossils) unearthed during mining operations. Other “significant” fossils which are not vertebrate fossils may also be unearthed, but for the purposes of practicality, the main focus of the mitigation is for vertebrates.

Recommended Remedy by Review Team Member (if any): The final ROD should clarify that the paleontology mitigation measure is primarily aimed at recognizing vertebrate fossils but that other fossil assemblages may occur.

Review Team Member: Michael Linden, Regional Liaison for Minerals and Geology