January 17, 2013

Honorable Thomas L. Tidwell
Chief, USDA Forest Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

REF: Mine Plan of Operations for Rosemont Copper Company
Coronado National Forest, Arizona

Dear Chief Tidwell:

In response to an invitation from the Forest Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) will participate in the Section 106 consultation regarding the proposed approval of copper mine Plan of Operations by Rosemont Copper Company in the Coronado National Forest in Arizona. Our decision to participate in this consultation is based on the Criteria for Council Involvement in Reviewing Individual Section 106 Cases, contained within our regulations. The criteria are met for this proposed undertaking because it may adversely affect numerous historic properties including the Ce:wi Duag, a traditional cultural property eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and of religious and cultural significance the Tohono O’odham Nation and other Indian tribes. Accordingly, through our participation in this Section 106 consultation, the ACHP will assist the Forest Service in meeting the procedural requirements and preservation goals of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Section 800.6(a)(1)(iii) of our regulations requires that we notify you, as the head of the agency, of our decision to participate in consultation. By copy of this letter, we are also notifying Jim Upchurch, Forest Supervisor, Coronado National Forest, of this decision.

Our participation in this consultation will be handled by Katry Harris who can be reached by telephone at 202-606-8520 or by e-mail at kharris@achp.gov. We look forward to working with your agency and other consulting parties to consider alternatives to this undertaking that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties.

Sincerely,

John M. Fowler
Executive Director