

FACT SHEET

ASARCO Multi-State Environmental Custodial Trust
Salero Mine Closure Work
Santa Cruz County, Arizona
September 2015



TETRA TECH

On behalf of the ASARCO Multi-State Environmental Custodial Trust (“Trust”), Tetra Tech provides this Fact Sheet to inform the community near the Salero Mine Site (the “Site”) of 2014 remediation activities. This Fact Sheet documents the progress achieved towards a No Further Action (“NFA”) status for the soil at the Trust’s Salero Mine Site (“Site”).

SITE BOUNDARIES

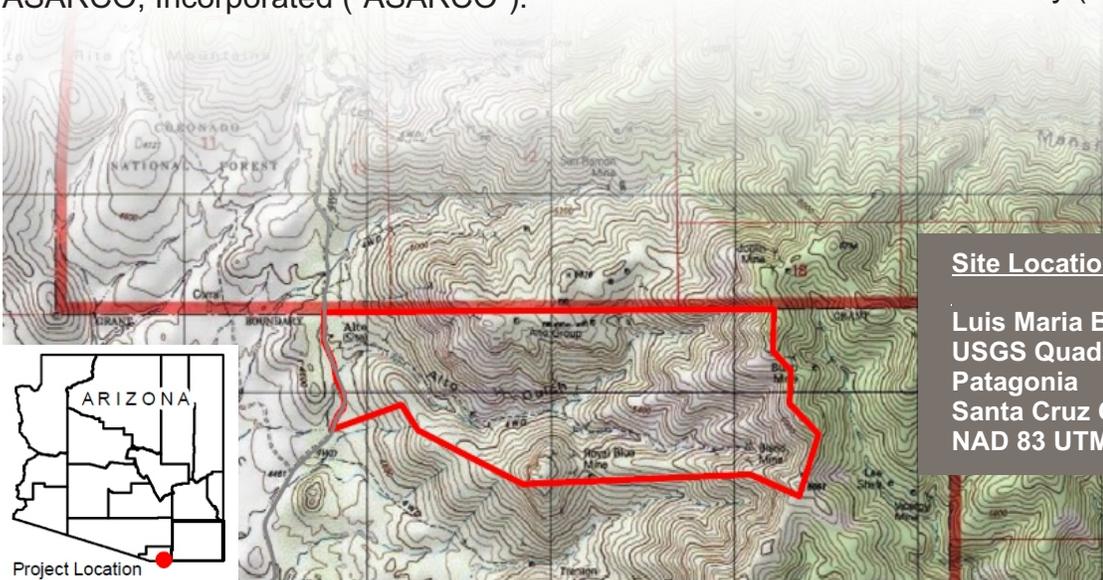
The Site is located in Santa Cruz County in southeastern Arizona, approximately 8 miles northwest of the Town of Patagonia. The Site, which is approximately 470 acres, was mined historically from 1687 through 1959 and includes the Alto, Long Contact, Royal Blue, and Bland Mines. The site is located in Township 21 South, Range 14 East and Sections 11, 12, and 18 and is approximately 7.5 miles north of Sonoita Creek.

SITE HISTORY

The Site has been historically mined and includes various mine features consisting of adits, vertical shafts, and tunnels. Silver, lead, copper, zinc, and some gold have been mined at the Site from approximately 1687 through 1959.

In November 1999, the Site was purchased by ASARCO, Incorporated (“ASARCO”).

ASARCO’s contractors from 1999 through 2008 performed environmental work including sampling; design, installation, and maintenance of the acid rock drainage conveyance system and evaporation ponds; reclamation of the Royal Blue, Long Contact, and Bland area mine waste rock dumps which were likely contributors to surface water quality impacts and sediment transport; and construction of bat gates at the associated adits. In 2005, ASARCO changed its name to ASARCO LLC and on August 9, 2005, filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. As part of the resolution of ASARCO LLC’s bankruptcy, the ASARCO Multi-State Environmental Custodial Trust was created and on December 9, 2009, the Trust took title to the Site. The Trust is not affiliated with ASARCO or ASARCO LLC. The Trust’s primary purpose is to monitor and remediate the Site, with the funds provided to it through the bankruptcy settlement, in consultation with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).



Site Location Map

Luis Maria Baca Land Grant
USGS Quads: San Cayetano Mts.,
Patagonia
Santa Cruz County, Arizona
NAD 83 UTM Zone 12

WHAT ARE THE CONTAMINANTS AT THE SITE?

The main contaminants of concern (“COCs”) at the Site are metals associated with mining-related waste rock and low pH acid rock drainage associated with the adits. The main metals present include arsenic, copper, and lead.

HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CONTAMINATION

The main health risk associated with the Site is for on-site hikers exposed through the inhalation of the waste rock and mining-related waste at the surface of the Site. The groundwater under the Site is not used for a public drinking water system. The Trust has conducted a review of local private well information and have determined that they have not been impacted. If you are connected to a public drinking water system, your public water provider is required by law to provide water that meets all state and federal drinking water standards. If you have a private well near the Site and have any questions, please contact the Tetra Tech Project Manager, Michael Dieckhaus, at (520) 297-7723.

ACTIVITIES ACHIEVED



Waste Rock Area No. 1
in 2013 prior to reclamation.

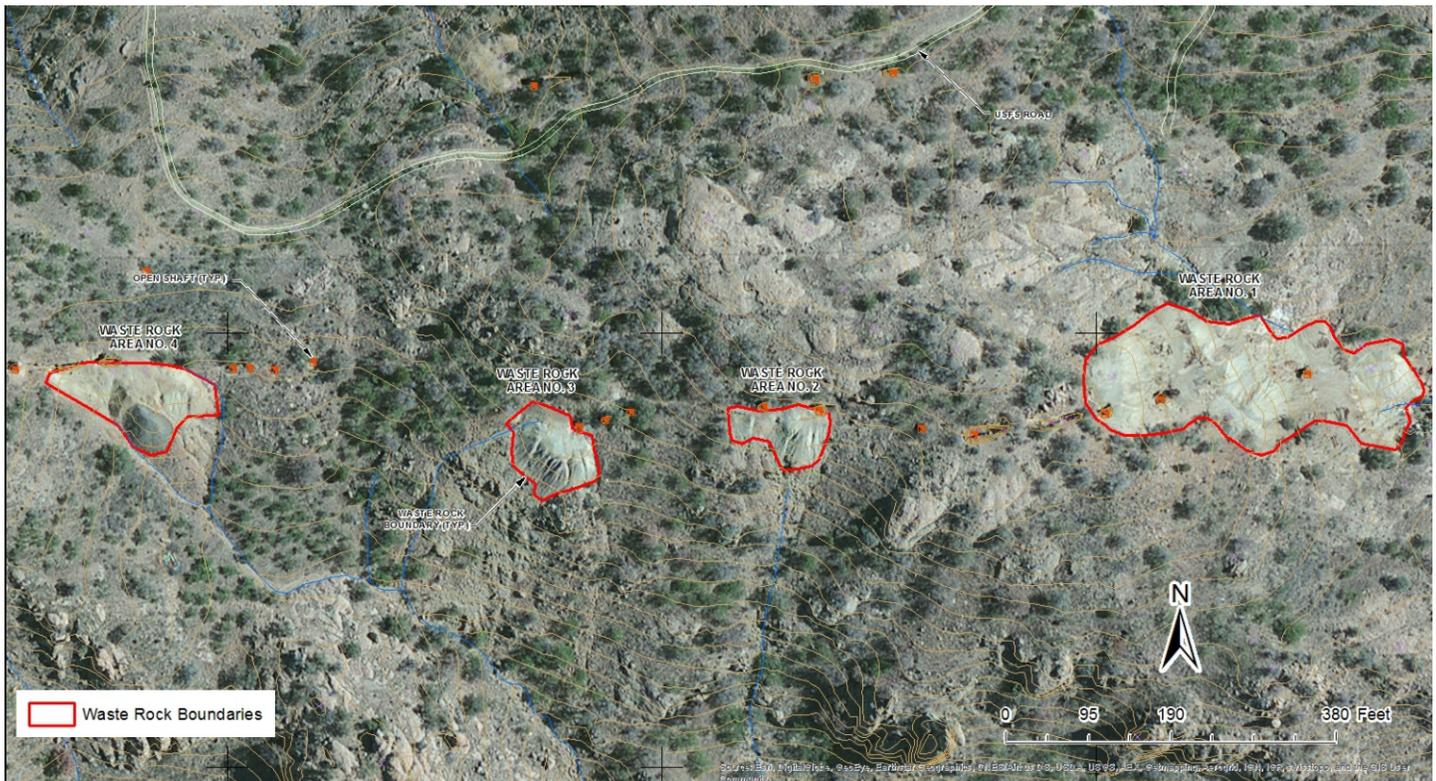


Waste Rock Area No. 1
in 2014 after reclamation.

Tetra Tech accomplished the following closure and reclamation activities at the Site in June and July 2014:

- Sampling and testing of waste rock and soil in Waste Rock Areas No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 to identify the levels and extent of contamination;
- Backfilling waste rock from Waste Rock Areas No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 on the ridgetop into open shafts to reduce the amount of waste rock exposed at the surface;
- Construction of an engineering control 24-inch soil cap and seeding of all disturbed soil and cap areas to limit exposure to contaminants from Waste Rock Areas No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 (soil used from borrow areas identified on the ridgetop);
- Grading at Waste Rock Areas No. 1 and 4 to contour drainage at a 2:1 or less slope to match existing grades and achieve positive drainage away from the waste rock areas;

The Site is monitored monthly, and the reclaimed Waste Rock Areas No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 are monitored for signs of erosion damage after severe rain events. Seeding appears to be successfully re-vegetating the capped and disturbed soil areas.



WHAT ARE FUTURE PLANS AT THIS SITE?

The Trust completed evaporation pond liner repairs during Summer 2015. The Trust is currently prioritizing all remaining closure activities identified in the Salero Mine Closure Work Plan with ADEQ.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Trust will keep the public informed regarding the closure and remediation progress through public meetings and fact sheets.

Information Repository

The details of the remediation and reclamation activities can be found in the Salero Mine Closure Work Plan. The work plan, fact sheet and any public notices are available at the Patagonia Post Office located at 100 Taylor Avenue, Patagonia, AZ 85624 until May 2016. The post office is open Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The work plan, fact sheet and public notices are also available via the ADEQ Records Management Center located at 1110 W. Washington Street in Phoenix. Please contact (602) 771-4380 or the Tetra Tech Community Involvement Manager listed below to schedule an appointment to review these documents.

CONTACTS

Michael Dieckhaus
Tetra Tech Project Manager
Phone: (520) 297-7723
Email: michael.dieckhaus@tetrattech.com

Kim Hould
Community Involvement Manager
Phone: (520) 297-7723
Email: kim.hould@tetrattech.com

ADEQ Contact:
John Patricki
ADEQ Project Manager
Phone: (602) 771-4397
Email: patricki.john@azdeq.gov

GLOSSARY

ADEQ - Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

ASARCO - American Smelting and Refining Company a subsidiary of Grupo Mexico.

Contamination - Any hazardous substance released into the environment.

COCs - Contaminates of concern are any specific substances released into the environment that may be hazardous.

Groundwater - Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, clay, or gravel. In aquifers, groundwater occurs in sufficient quantities that it can be used for drinking water, irrigation, and other purposes.

NFA - When a certified professional believes that a property has been investigated and, if necessary, cleaned up to the standards contained in the respective Arizona Revised Statute, he or she can prepare what is called a No Further Action Letter (NFA) that must be approved by ADEQ. The NFA describes the environmental problems found at a property, how those environmental problems were investigated and how the property was cleaned up.

Remediation - Actions taken to deal with the release of a hazardous substance that could affect people or the environment.

Trust - ASARCO Multi-State Environmental Custodial Trust, created by the United States Bankruptcy Court and not associated with ASARCO.