

Proposed Action

FMBI owns and operates the copper mining operation at the Bagdad Mine, located approximately 100 miles northwest of Phoenix, in western Yavapai County, Arizona. Mining has occurred in the Bagdad area since the early 1880s, and open pit mining began in 1945. The majority of the existing Bagdad Mine operations and facilities are situated on private lands. However, some Bagdad Mine operations are conducted on BLM lands under an existing 1996 MPO (as amended), *Plan of Operations for Upper Mammoth Tailings & South Waste Rock Disposal Facilities*. Approximately 671 acres of BLM-managed lands in Sections 8 and 9 of Township 14 North, Range 9 West have been previously approved for disturbance through the approval of the 1996 MPO and subsequent amendments (see attached map - BLM approved disturbance area).

The BLM accepted the *Bagdad Mine Stockpile Extension Modification to the Mine Plan of Operations* (MPO Modification) as administratively complete in June of 2014. The MPO Modification seeks to modify the 1996 MPO (as amended) for the extension of the existing consolidated Plan IX Leach/South Waste Rock Stockpile (the Stockpile) located in Sections 16 and 17 of Township 14 North, Range 9 West (see attached map). The proposed extension includes increasing the existing Stockpile by approximately 450 acres onto BLM-managed lands and would allow for the construction, operation, closure, and post-closure of the proposed Stockpile extension. The operation of the expanded Stockpile would continue in the same manner as the existing Stockpile. The stockpile extension would be both lateral and vertical. The conceptual design plan for the stockpile illustrates a height of approximately 1,200 feet, extending to approximately 4,850 feet above mean sea level. Overburden and mineralized waste rock materials from the open pit will continue to be placed on the Stockpile by haul trucks. Leaching would occur on the western, Plan IX Leach portion of the Stockpile, and overburden/mineralized waste rock would be stored on the eastern, South Waste Rock portion of the Stockpile. The southern boundary of the proposed stockpile extension generally corresponds to a drainage divide (ridgeline); stockpiled materials would not be placed south of this divide. Storm water runoff from the stockpile extension would continue to be directed to the existing open pit to the north. The proposed Stockpile extension has an anticipated operational life of approximately 40 years.

The MPO modification also proposes the installation of limited, future distributed facilities to fulfill the need for future support facilities that are typically associated with mining operations to meet safety, environmental, operational, closure and post-closure requirements. The distributed facilities are anticipated south of the drainage divide that defines the southern limit of the proposed Stockpile extension (Figure 1). Surface disturbance would be limited to a cumulative total of 150 acres of BLM-managed lands. Distributed facilities may include, but are not limited to, upgraded or additional electrical power lines, raw or process water lines, access roads, monitoring wells, communications equipment, stability monitoring equipment, or other support facilities. The environmental review provided by this NEPA analysis will enhance the ability to plan, design, and adjust the alignment of such features to protect natural resources; final engineering plans will be submitted to the BLM prior to ground-disturbing activities related to individual distributed facilities. The distributed facilities would be anticipated for use over 40 years, with the potential for continued use to support reclamation, closure, and post-closure of the mine.

APS has approval for a ROW to relocate the Bagdad 115 kV power line south of the proposed Stockpile extension. This approval permits construction and disturbance within the 100-foot ROW corridor. However, the approved ROW does not permit construction or improvement of roads outside the 100-foot ROW for power line construction and maintenance. In February 2013, APS submitted a proposed amendment to the existing ROW to construct and improve roads necessary for the future maintenance of the power line (Figure 1). Approximately 30 acres of disturbance are proposed to BLM-managed lands for the APS roads, spanning a cumulative total of approximately 5 miles. The APS proposed roads are

located within the same geographic area as the limited, future distributed facilities described above and would be granted for a 30-year term, with the potential for extension.