

3.4 Viewshed Protection Plan

A viewshed analysis has been completed for the Rosemont Project using the top of the coarse ore stockpile building and the high point of the lined heap leach pad (Tetra Tech 2007h). Three project phases were analyzed for the Rosemont plant site (Year 0, 5, and 15) utilizing an elevation of 5,200 ft, which represents the high point of the proposed plant. The highest point of the lined heap leach pad is 5,280 ft. Visual results of the viewshed analysis are provided in Figures 3-2 through 3-6.

As the life of the mine progresses, the waste rock storage areas and the perimeter buttresses become larger, shielding the plant from view. In Year 0, the plant can be seen from various locations to the east and southeast along a four mi stretch of SR 83. Views of the plant from the south and Sonoita at this time are minimal to nonexistent. By Year 5, the screening berm will limit the visibility of the plant from the 4-mi stretch of SR 83, though not completely, and there is virtually no view of the plant from the south. Midway through the mine operation, the plant is completely shielded from viewers along SR 83. The highest points of the pit wall are visible from a larger area, although the reclaimed slopes and crest of the perimeter buttresses will dominate the foreground and minimize the highwall views. A line of sight analysis was performed from the mile post 44 turnout along SR 83 to determine what portion of the pit wall would be visible from that location. This analysis showed that only a small portion of the final pit configuration (approximately 10.7 ac) will be visible.