

2.13 Site Operations Security and Public Safety

2.13.1 Security

In order for the Rosemont operations to run smoothly, it is important that the site be secure. Theft and vandalism could potentially have a negative effect on worker safety and on operating efficiency. Therefore, access to the site will be controlled by fencing, security patrols and by limiting locations for officially entering and leaving the property. Operations will be conducted around the clock and guard buildings will be located at the official entrances. Other guards will conduct mobile patrols of the perimeter fence to insure that no one is accessing the site unlawfully. Signs will be posted along the fence and at strategic locations along roads warning people that the entering the site is prohibited.

2.13.2 Public Safety

In addition to protecting the site from potential vandalism or theft, it is also important to protect the public from interfacing with the mine operations and to prevent potential injury. Hazards of a typical mining operation include but are not limited to: traumatic injury from large equipment, getting entangled in machinery, driving over steep embankments, slipping or falling on uneven ground or slippery surfaces, encountering high voltage electricity, exposure to chemicals or reagents while not wearing proper personal protective equipment, and exposure to loud noises while not wearing hearing protection. Employees working at the site are required to receive specific training in accordance with Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules, covering all aspects of site safety, whereas recreationists will likely have no such training and may not recognize the hazards. Therefore, it is imperative that access is controlled and that trespassing rules are enforced. The same fencing, patrols and signage discussed in Section 2.13.1 will serve to warn recreationists and others in the area of potential dangers. In addition, employees will be trained to be aware of trespassers in the course of their normal duties and report any suspicious activity to the safety and property departments.

The facilities have been designed to minimize the need for visitors to drive or walk in hazardous areas. Most visitors, vendors and salespeople will come and go from the administration building or an administrative area within the warehouse/receiving building located near the guard house at the entrance of the facility.

Supply route drivers will receive site orientation training and be familiarized with their specific loading/unloading locations and procedures.

2.13.3 Fire and Emergency Planning

Planning for emergencies will be an important part of establishing operations for the Rosemont Project. Several types of plans will be prepared prior to start up. These plans will include a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan, an Emergency Response and Contingency Plan, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), a Fire Plan, and others. These plans will identify emergency preparedness and emergency contact protocols for any conceivable situation.

As project planning continues to develop, the specifics of the emergency planning process will also advance. In addition, extensive training of personnel and the availability of appropriate equipment and supplies will insure a successful emergency management program.

Staffing for the Rosemont Project includes safety, industrial hygiene, and environmental technical professionals. Some of the facilities and equipment for emergency planning include: a fully equipped environmental sampling and spill response station, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-compliant waste storage and accumulation areas, safety and training building, an ambulance, and a fire truck.

Of special concern will be preventing wildfires. Mine vehicles will be equipped with, at a minimum, fire extinguishers, shovels and first aid kits. Policies, such as prohibiting parking on top of vegetation, and properly disposing of cigarette butts, will be established and enforced to minimize fire potential.

2.13.3.1 Water and Chemical Supply Systems

Fresh water for the Rosemont Project will be supplied from dedicated wells located on the property. Water from the wells will report to the fresh water tank. Water will be pumped from the fresh water tank by vertical turbine pumps. It will travel through a common pipeline and a system of three water booster tanks and horizontal centrifugal pump systems, installed in series, to the plant area fresh/fire water tank. Fresh water and fire water will be supplied from the fresh/fire water tank to the facility by gravity. The fire water distribution system is located in the mill site area and the foam fire system in the solvent extraction area.

2.13.3.2 Emergency Lighting and Exit Signs

Adequate and reliable illumination will be installed and maintained for all exits. Battery powered back up must provide a minimum of 60 minutes of illumination and will be standard for all emergency lighting and exit signs. Maintenance inspections will be conducted on a monthly basis. Emergency and exit lighting systems will be tested annually.

2.13.3.3 Fire and Smoke Alarms

Fire and smoke alarms will be installed in all employee work areas. Systems and components will receive inspection monthly. Annual testing and maintenance will be conducted for systems and components. Records of inspections will be kept on site for a minimum of 5 years.

2.13.3.4 Fire Extinguishers

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) established NFPA 10, which is the Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers. NFPA 10 mandates the type, size, placement, and minimum number of extinguishers required for each building. Fire extinguishers will be installed in accordance with this standard.

2.13.3.5 Standpipe Fire Hose Stations

In addition to portable fire extinguishers, standpipe fire hose stations will be provided for defend-in-place fire protection. This equipment is designed to protect individuals from initial developing fires and will be installed at mine plant site areas where fire response time exceeds five minutes.