



Bureau of Land Management AZ Magma Mine

# Magma Consulting

# **Preliminary Assessment & Site Inspection**

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# <span id="page-5-0"></span>**Acknowledgements**

Magma Consulting acknowledges the advice and technical support of Taylor Oster (technical advisor), Bridget Bero (grading instructor), and Eric Zielske (engineer for the Bureau of Land Management) in the completion of this preliminary assessment and site inspection for the AZ Magma Mine.





# <span id="page-6-1"></span><span id="page-6-0"></span>**1.0 Project Description**

# **1.1 Project Purpose**

The purpose of this project is to provide a preliminary assessment and site inspection (PA/SI) of the AZ Magma Mine near Chloride, Arizona for contaminated soil. Mine tailings have been identified at the mine's location and there is evidence of contaminant migration. Potential contaminants of concern (COC) include lead and arsenic. After the inspection, it will be determined whether additional, more in-depth analysis of the mine is necessary from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

# <span id="page-6-2"></span>**1.2 Project Background**

The AZ Magma Mine (Latitude N 35°25'00" Longitude W114°13'27") is located approximately one mile west of Chloride, Arizona and 28 miles north of Kingman (ADMMR, 1995). Figure 1-1 below shows the mine's location in reference to both towns and Figure 1-2 shows its proximity to Chloride.



**Figure 1-1.** AZ Magma Mine in Reference to Chloride and Kingman (Google Earth, 2016)







**Figure 1-2.** AZ Magma Mine's Proximity to Chloride (Google Earth, 2016)

Chloride has a population of approximately 250 residents and is considered one of the oldest mining towns in America because of its proximity to over 70 mines (McNeely, 2016).

Mining began at this site, originally called Arizona Diana Mine, in the 1890's. It experienced a period of inactivity until the 1920's where its commodities were primarily silver, gold, and lead (ADMMR, 1995). The mine closed again in the 1920's and was reopened and named after its new operating company, Magma Mine, in 1934 (ADMMR, 1995). For the mine's reopening, a new mill was built that was initially reported to provide a steady stream of revenue for years to come. However, after an investigation in 1940, it was found to be run down and in need of repair (ADMMR, 1995). A high-grade ore with ruby silver was mined at the site in its early years, while a low-grade ore with zinc and lead was its primary export in its later years. The mine was reviewed several times from 1940 to 1945 due to lack of funding and difficulty in extracting anything lucrative. As a result of these site investigations, AZ Magma Mine was advised to close in 1945.

Currently, the site belongs to the BLM and is considered open and accessible to the public. While mine operations shut down in the early 1940's, tailings about 10 feet deep are still present on the site (Zielske, 2016). These tailings may contain lead or arsenic (Zielske, 2016). Photos of the tailings can be seen in Figures 1-3 and 1-4.







**Figure 1-3.** Current Condition of Tailings (Zielske, 2016)



**Figure 1-4.** Landscape Photo of Entire Tailings Pile (Szaro, 2017)





The tailings have also washed down into the nearby wash (Figure 1-5) and onto Old Chloride Road, which connects the mine to Chloride (Figure 1-6).



**Figure 1-5.** Tailings in the Wash (Zielske, 2016)



**Figure 1-6.** Tailings on the Road (Zielske, 2016)





The site is also located near several water wells, as seen in Figure 1-7. Wells are signified by red dots on the map.



**Figure 1-7.** Wells near AZ Magma Mine (ADWR, 2016)

The depth to groundwater for these wells varies from 100 to 150 feet and may be at risk for contamination from the mine (ADWR, 2016). Magma Consulting did not take any water samples for this project.

# <span id="page-10-0"></span>**1.3 Scope of Services**

The scope of services included all activities necessary to fulfill the project purpose. Major tasks included the development of a Work Plan, training, site sampling, laboratory analysis, risk assessment, and the development of the PA/SI document.

The team did not sample to depth at the site; only surface samples were taken. An additional drainage area was identified on the east side of the tailings pile; additional hotspot samples were taken downgradient in this area. No recommendations for remedial actions following the PA/SI are made.

# <span id="page-10-1"></span>**2.0 Work Plan**

The Work Plan outlines all procedures and safety considerations for all field and laboratory activities. The Work Plan includes the Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and Health and Safety Plan (HASP). The Work Plan, SAP, and HASP are found in Appendices A, B, and C, respectively.





# <span id="page-11-0"></span>**3.0 Field Activities**

All sampling procedures, documentation procedures, storage methods, quality assurance and control measures, and chain of custody procedures followed those outlined in the SAP (Appendix B) unless otherwise noted. Deviations from the SAP are detailed below.

Field sampling was conducted between January  $20<sup>th</sup>$  (Day 1) and January  $21<sup>st</sup>$  (Day 2). With a mixture of heavy rain, wind, and clouds, conditions during Day 1 were unfavorable. This resulted in deviations from the SAP. First, with dust no longer a concern at the site on Day 1, mouth covers and Tyvek suits were not worn. Team members wore shoe covers and nitrile gloves as their only means of personal protective equipment (PPE). Second, the initial plan was to collect 25 samples on the tailings pile, 66 samples on the wash and road south of the tailings pile, 4 background samples, and 5 hotspot samples for a total of 100 samples. Due to the poor conditions on Day 1, with anticipated improved conditions on Day 2, it was decided by the Northern Arizona University (NAU) person-in-charge, Dr. Bridget Bero, that the tailings pile would be sampled on Day 1, with the wash, road, background, and any observed hotspots sampled on Day 2.

For Day 1, coordinates for node 21 were initially planned to be used as reference coordinates. Due to cloud cover, the accuracy of the team's GPS was compromised. To find node 21, the team used unique geographical identifiers from aerial maps included in the SAP to more accurately plant the stake flag for node 21. Despite technical issues, coordinates for the location of node 21's stake flag were recorded in the GPS. To the team's judgement, the coordinates recorded in the GPS for node 21 appeared to be about 10 feet north of where the team had anticipated the node to be. From here, two people from the team used measuring tape to stake out the other nodes on the tailings pile, each located 100 feet from one another, per the SAP. At each stake flag on the tailings pile, coordinates were recorded in the GPS. Soon after two people from the team began staking out flags, two other people from the team began collecting soil samples. Sampling and decontamination procedures outlined in the SAP were followed. However, due to rain, trowels used for sampling were unable to be dried following decontamination.

Additionally, due to the poor weather conditions on Day 1, some nodes were eliminated from the grid on the tailings pile. This included nodes 8, 12, 14, and 18. This decision was made by the NAU person-in-charge. The assumption was that contaminant concentrations on the tailings pile would be fairly homogenous. At the end of Day 1, 21 grid samples in total were collected at the site, all of which were on or near the tailings pile. Figure 3-1 shows the location of the 21 samples collected on Day 1.



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**Figure 3-1.** Samples Collected on Day 1

For Day 2, weather conditions improved. Because soil at the site was still damp, a reduced outfit of PPE was still used, with only shoe covers and nitrile gloves being worn by team members. All staking and sampling procedures mirrored those used on Day 1. However, with clearer weather, trowels used for sampling were able to be dried following decontamination.

Due to observed deviations in terrain south of the tailings pile, as compared to the terrain anticipated from maps in the SAP, some samples were eliminated from the grid. This included nodes 26-29, 46, 51, 52, 56, 64, 70, and 75-91. However, some sample locations were added to the grid, as decided by the NAU person-in-charge. This included nodes 55A, 69A, and 69B. Figure 3-2 shows the location of the 42 samples collected in the wash and road on Day 2.







**Figure 3-2.** Samples Collected in Wash and Road on Day 2

Additionally, background and hotspot samples were collected on Day 2. A total of 3 background samples were collected, all located west of the site. A total of 8 hotspot samples were collected, with their locations being chosen by the NAU person-in-charge. The location of hotspot 1 can be seen in Figure 3-2, between sample 42 and 43. The locations of all other hotspot and background samples can be seen in Figure 4-3. In total, the team collected 74 samples at the site, in comparison to the 100 samples it projected to collect.

In storing the samples from Day 1 and Day 2, there were a few deviations from the chain of custody procedures outlined in the SAP. Although samples were properly labeled with their sample ID and placed into a total of three plastic crates, chain of custody forms indicating which samples were in which crate were not created or stored with the samples. Additionally, the crates were not sealed with tape after being closed with a lid. After sample collection was completed at the end of Day 2, the team drove the samples from the site to NAU, where the crates were stored in the Engineering Building on campus.





# <span id="page-14-0"></span>**4.0 Laboratory Analysis**

All sample preparation procedures, laboratory analyses, quality assurance and control methods, and analytical methods followed those outlined in the SAP (Appendix A-2) unless otherwise noted. A brief discussion of each analysis and deviations from the SAP are detailed in the sections below.

# <span id="page-14-1"></span>**4.1 Sample Preparation**

Following EPA Method 6200 for X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analysis, each sample was dried at 105 $^{\circ}$ C  $\pm$  5 $^{\circ}$ C for 24  $\pm$  2 hours. After the samples were dried, they were placed into new, labeled plastic gallon bags. Following drying, all soil samples were sieved to material passing a #60 sieve (250 μm) for 10 minutes (rather than a #200 sieve [74 μm] for 5 minutes as intended in the SAP) and placed back into the plastic bags. Some of the samples were only sieved to a #35 sieve (500 μm) due to difficulty in obtaining enough sample to analyze with XRF. Samples that were sieved to a #35 sieve are indicated in Table 4-1. Before beginning XRF analysis, each plastic bag was labeled with 9 equal squares, as shown in Figure 4-1.



**Figure 4-1.** Sample Ready for XRF Analysis

# <span id="page-14-2"></span>**4.2 XRF Analysis**

For XRF analysis, all samples were analyzed using EPA Method 6200, with some exceptions (EPA A, 2007). Due to difficulty in obtaining enough sieved soil, some samples were analyzed with 3 shots (rather than 9 shots, then excluding the highest and lowest values), and an average was developed from those 3 readings. In one case, only 1 XRF reading could be made for a soil sample. Samples that were analyzed with XRF once or 3 times are indicated in Table 4-1. Figure 4-2 shows the XRF process.







**Figure 4-2.** XRF Analyzer

Following XRF analysis, all chemical concentrations were compared to Arizona's residential and non-residential soil remediation standards (ASOS). Arsenic was found to exceed its residential and non-residential standard (10 mg/kg) in 74 of 74 samples. The standard for arsenic is identical for residential and non-residential due to the high toxicity of arsenic. Manganese was found to exceed its residential standard (3300 mg/kg) in 31 of 74 samples. Vanadium was found to exceed its residential standard in 42 of 74 samples (78 mg/kg). The chemical concentrations of arsenic, manganese, and vanadium for each sample are presented in Table 4-1. All individual XRF readings can be seen in Appendix F.

















d = Acid digested in preparation for ICP analysis

Once the XRF data was found, the concentrations for arsenic, manganese, and vanadium were input into a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) map to observe the spatial distribution of contaminant concentrations at the site. Figures 4-3, 4-4, and 4-5 present the spatial distribution of concentrations for arsenic, manganese, and vanadium, respectively.







**Figure 4-3.** Arsenic GIS Map



**Figure 4-4.** Manganese GIS Map



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**Figure 4-5.** Vanadium GIS Map

Upon observation of the GIS maps, there is no logical trend within the XRF data for any of the COCs. The tailings pile seems to have lower concentrations than the wash and the road, suggesting the soil increases in concentration as it moves away from the tailings pile. The road is also a high point in the concentrations of all COCs and this is especially concerning because the road connects directly to houses west of the mine. Another anomaly in the data is with background samples having higher arsenic concentration than hotspots. This most likely means that the hotspots chosen during sampling were misidentified.

# <span id="page-19-0"></span>**4.3 Acid Digestion**

Following XRF analysis, some samples were acid digested following EPA Method 3050B (Acid Digestion of Sediments, Sludges, and Soils) to prepare them for inductively coupled plasma (ICP) mass spectrometric analysis of arsenic. As detailed in the SAP, approximately 20% of the samples were chosen and digested. To decide which samples to include, the XRF data was ordered from lowest to highest arsenic concentration and approximately each fifth sample was chosen. This allowed for an even spread of data to be represented in the subset sent off for ICP analysis. Sixteen total samples were chosen for digestion and are indicated in the XRF table in Table 4-1. EPA Method 3050B was followed exactly as it is stated in the SAP, with 16 samples and 1 blank being digested in one day. Figure 4-6 shows the digestion process.







**Figure 4-6.** Acid Digestion

Once all steps presented in the SAP were completed, the supernatants from the digested samples were refrigerated until they were ready for transport. During this time, some samples fell out of the refrigerator, causing the centrifuge tubes holding the samples to dent and one to shatter. Samples within any dented centrifuge tubes were pipetted into new tubes and thus only 15 samples could be sent off for ICP analysis.

Although manganese and vanadium were found as COCs from the XRF data, these contaminants were not chosen for digestion or ICP analysis. Manganese and vanadium are non-carcinogenic and require a different method of acid digestion. Thus, due to time constraints, arsenic is the only contaminant in which the XRF concentrations were confirmed with ICP.

## <span id="page-20-0"></span>**4.4 Inductively Coupled Plasma (ICP) Mass Spectrometry**

The digested samples were placed in a cooler with a chain of custody form and a document with exact masses of soil used for each sample during digestion. This cooler was given to Dr. Paul Gremillion who then passed it on to Dr. Michael Ketterer on March 24, 2017. Dr. Ketterer transported the samples back to his lab in Denver, Colorado where he performed ICP analysis to determine the arsenic concentrations of each digest. Dr. Ketterer's results can be seen in Appendix G.

# <span id="page-20-1"></span>**4.4.1 XRF and ICP Correlation of Arsenic**

As mentioned in the SAP, in order to use XRF data in a screening level risk assessment, it must be confirmed by ICP analysis with a correlation of 0.7 or greater. Table 4-2 shows the arsenic concentrations found by both XRF and ICP analysis.





	<b>XRF</b>	<b>ICP</b>	<b>Relative Percent</b>
Sample ID	(mg/kg)	(mg/kg)	Difference (%)
$\mathbf{2}$	151	2980	181
11	521	1120	73
13	383	2090	138
30	581	410	35
36	982	181	138
37	1372	2340	52
39	51	4910	196
41	261	614	81
49	124	1940	176
58	2090	762	93
60	1213	939	25
62	2720	370	152
69	753	704	7
HS1	456	1820	120

**Table 4-2.** XRF vs. ICP Arsenic Concentrations

Figure 4-7 displays the data and what the ideal correlation should be. It is clear by comparing the concentrations in Table 4-2 and viewing the graph, there is no significant correlation between the XRF and ICP data. The ICP data were double checked by Dr. Ketterer and confirmed, so it can be considered a more accurate representation of the arsenic concentrations in AZ Magma's soil.



**Figure 4-7.** XRF and ICP Correlation





Figures 4-8 and 4-9 show GIS maps of arsenic concentrations determined by XRF and ICP.



**Figure 4-8.** XRF Arsenic GIS Map of Samples chosen for ICP



**Figure 4-9.** ICP Arsenic GIS Map





<span id="page-23-0"></span>As the ICP results are more accurate than the XRF results, Figure 4-9 shows a more realistic view of the site. The ICP data shows a more logical trend of higher concentrations in the tailings pile and a gradual decrease further away from the tailings pile. The samples taken in the road are still well above the residential standard as well, which may directly impact those who live close to the mine.

## **4.4.2 Potential Causes for XRF Inaccuracy**

For arsenic, the other BLM team performed similar XRF and ICP analyses. However, the other BLM team's correlation between XRF and ICP was nearly perfect. Because of this, potential problems within Magma Consulting's analysis had to be considered.

One possible cause for XRF inaccuracy is soil moisture. As detailed in Section 3.0, the soils were sampled during intense rain and sleet and were excessively wet before analysis began. However, this should not have impacted the results significantly as Magma Consulting dried the samples for  $24 \pm 2$  hours. In addition, soil moisture typically results in XRF readings that are lower than the actual concentrations. This is not accurate for Magma's data, as some samples the XRF read as low were actually high (sample 39) and some the XRF read as high were actually low (sample 62). There is no consistent trend, so soil moisture is most likely not the cause.

Another possible cause for XRF inaccuracy is soil homogeneity. The larger the particle size, the fewer the X-rays will hit the sample resulting in possibly skewed data. Again, this should not have impacted the results because all samples were sieved to finer than a #60 sieve. Although a deviation was made by sieving to a #35 sieve, only one of these samples was chosen for ICP analysis and removing it from the data set does not improve the correlation. In fact, removing all deviations (6 samples sieved to #35 down or 3 XRF shots) from the data set does not improve the correlation, suggesting Magma Consulting's deviations are not the problem.

The last possible cause is also the most probable: spectral interference within the soil. It is possible that high concentrations of manganese, vanadium, and even iron might skew XRF data due to their similar wavelengths to arsenic. As manganese and vanadium were above residential soil remediation standards, those concentrations might be considered high enough to impact the XRF. For the BLM's consideration, the average concentration of iron in the soil samples was 17,066 mg/kg. Also, when compared to the other BLM team, they did not have high concentrations of these metals, so spectral interference would not have occurred for their samples.

Despite the poor correlation between the XRF and ICP data, Magma Consulting completed a screening level risk assessment for arsenic, manganese, and vanadium. Although the arsenic concentrations may not be accurate, the ICP data still shows concentrations of arsenic above the non-residential and residential remediation standards, suggesting this site is still a risk.





# <span id="page-24-1"></span><span id="page-24-0"></span>**5.0 Screening Risk Assessments**

## **5.1 EPA's Risk Assessment Technique**

<span id="page-24-2"></span>The EPA has standard approaches for both human and ecological risk assessment. The subsections below describe the process for both risk assessment techniques.

## **5.1.1 Human Health Risk Assessment**

The following four-step procedure outlined by the EPA was used to characterize human health risk (EPA B):

- Planning
- Step 1: Hazard Identification
- Step 2: Dose-Response Assessment
- Step 3: Exposure Assessment
- Step 4: Risk Characterization

# **5.1.1.1 Planning**

The AZ Magma Mine is located about 2 miles from Chloride, Arizona, and about 20 miles from Kingman, Arizona. Surrounding populations are at risk of being exposed to fugitive dust as well as potential ingestion of mine tailings. As of 2014, Chloride has a population of 197 (Table 5-1). As of 2014, Kingman has a population of 28,201 (Table 5-1).



**Table 5-1.** Population Distribution Data for Chloride, AZ and Kingman, AZ  $(IISA A, IISA B)$ 





Adults in Chloride are the primary group at risk, with 96.95% of the population falling into this category. The remaining 3.05% are children. Adults in Kingman are the primary group at risk, with 82.25 % of the population falling into this category. The remaining 17.75% are people under the age of 15. No medical data for people living near the site was found.

This risk assessment was conducted quantitatively for soil ingestion, but qualitatively for air inhalation. This is because there is insufficient data to compute dust contaminant concentrations in the air. In addition, this risk assessment did not consider drinking water exposure because water sampling was excluded from the project.

## **5.1.1.2 Hazard Identification**

As identified by the chemical analysis, the contaminants of concern on the AZ Magma Mine are arsenic, manganese, and vanadium. Arsenic exposure may cause the following carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic health effects (WHO):

- Cancer (skin, bladder, lung)
- Nerve damage
- Cardiac disease
- Birth defects

Oral exposure to arsenic may cause non-carcinogenic health impacts, while oral, drinking water, and inhalation exposure may lead to carcinogenic health effects (EPA E). Manganese, unlike other contaminants, is considered a toxic micronutrient (Lenntech A). Manganese exposure may cause the following non-carcinogenic health effects:

- Birth defects
- Nerve damage
- Glucose intolerance

Oral and inhalation exposure to manganese may cause non-carcinogenic health effects (EPA F). Manganese is considered to be non-carcinogenic in humans. Vanadium exposure may cause the following non-carcinogenic health effects (Lenntech B):

- Cardiac and vascular disease
- Nerve damage
- Skin rash
- Kidney and liver bleeding
- Behavioral change





Oral exposure to vanadium can cause non-carcinogenic health effects. Table 5-2 shows the Arizona Soil Remediation Standards for arsenic, manganese, and vanadium.



### **Table 5-2.** Arizona Soil Remediation Standards (ASOS, 2017)

Table 5-3 below shows the contaminant concentrations present at the AZ Magma Mine.





Average contaminant concentrations were determined using a function in Excel that computed the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. Maximum contaminant concentrations were determined using a function in Excel that computed the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile. Arsenic concentrations are reported using ICP values, while manganese and vanadium data are reported using XRF values.

Under an average exposure scenario, arsenic and vanadium exceed the Arizona Soil Remediation Standards, but manganese does not. However, under a maximal exposure scenario, arsenic, manganese, and vanadium exceed the Arizona Soil Remediation Standards. Therefore, this site is considered hazardous for people who come in contact with the soil.

## **5.1.1.3 Dose-Response Assessment**

Table 5-4 shows the dose-response data for arsenic, manganese, and vanadium.





#### **Table 5-4.** Dose-response Data  $(TDA E, E, R, G)$



Toxicity scores are values used to rank the risk that a contaminant poses solely based on maximum concentration as well as reference dose/slope factor (LaGrega, Buckingham, and Evans). Toxicity scores independent of each other do not reflect how toxic a contaminant is. Rather, toxicity scores are used to rank contaminants from greatest to least risk. Equation 5-1 and Equation 5-2 are used to assess the toxicity of non-carcinogens and carcinogens (LaGrega, Buckingham, and Evans).

## **Equation 5-1:** *Non-carcinogens*

$$
TS = Cmax/RfD
$$

*TS = toxicity score Cmax = maximum concentration RfD = reference dose*

**Equation 5-2:** *Carcinogens*

$$
TS = SF * Cmax
$$

*SF = slope factor (carcinogen potency factor)*

Table 5-5 shows the non-carcinogenic and carcinogenic toxicity scores for arsenic, manganese, and vanadium.





Based on Equations 5-1 and 5-2, arsenic poses the greatest noncarcinogenic risk while vanadium poses the lowest non-carcinogenic risk.





This is because vanadium is found at the lowest concentrations. Manganese and vanadium are not considered carcinogens. Therefore, a carcinogenic toxicity score was not computed for either chemical.

## **5.1.1.4 Exposure Assessment**

Five exposure scenarios have been developed for this site. They are: residential, recreational day use (off-roading), recreational camping, visiting, and remediation worker. Three populations were considered for the risk assessment. They are: adult, child aged  $6 - 12$ , and child aged  $2 - 6$ .

It is assumed under the residential scenario that adults are exposed for 350 days of the year and 30 years for a total of 10500 days. For children aged 6 – 12, it is assumed that they are exposed for 350 days of the year and 6 years for a total of 2100 days. For children aged  $2-6$ , it is assumed that they are exposed for 350 days of the year and 4 years for a total of 1400 days. This is because it is assumed that they take a 2 week vacation every year.

It is assumed under a recreational day use scenario that users are on the site for 4 hours per month. It is assumed that adults uses the site for ten years resulting in a total exposure duration of 20 days. It is assumed that children aged 6 – 12 use the site for 6 years resulting in a total exposure duration of 12 days. It is assumed that children aged 2 – 6 use the site for 4 years resulting in a total exposure duration of 8 years.

It is assumed under a recreational camping exposure scenario that users are on site for 40 hours per year. In addition, it is assumed that the people camping use the site once in their lives. Therefore, the total exposure duration for them is 1.67 days.

Under a visiting scenario, it is assumed that adults would visit family and friends in Chloride for 15 days per year and for a total of 30 years. This results in an exposure duration of 450 days. It is assumed that children aged 6 – 12 visit family and friends for 15 days per year for 6 years resulting in a total exposure duration of 90 days. It is assumed that children aged  $2 - 6$  visit family and friends for 15 days per year for 4 years resulting in a total exposure duration of 60 days.

It is assumed that the remediation worker works for 8 hours per day, 5 days per week, 50 weeks per year, for a total of 1 year. In addition, it is assumed that the worker is given 2 weeks of vacation. Therefore, the total exposure duration for the remediation worker is 83.33 days. The remediation worker is assumed to be an adult only.





Table 5-6 shows the exposure duration and exposure frequency for each exposure scenario.



## **Table 5-6.** Exposure Durations and Frequencies

Chronic daily intake is computed assuming soil ingestion only. No risk calculations are computed for inhalation exposure. In addition, this risk assessment excludes drinking water as an exposure scenario. Chronic daily intake is computed assuming an average contaminant exposure  $(50<sup>th</sup>$  percentile of concentration data), and maximal contaminant exposure (95th percentile of concentration data).

Equation 5-3 is used to calculate chronic daily intake (CDI) (LaGrega, Buckingham, and Evans).

**Equation 5-3:** *Chronic daily intake*

## *I=C\*CR\*EF\*ED/(BW\*AT)*

*I = intake (milligram soil/kilogram of bodyweight - day)*

*C = concentration at exposure point (milligram of contaminant/kg soil)*

*CR = contact rate (mg/day)*

*EF = exposure frequency (days/year)*

*ED = exposure duration (years)*

*BW = bodyweight (kg)*

*AT = averaging time (days)*

Table 5-7 shows the average contact rate and body weight of adults, children aged 6 - 12, and children aged 2 - 6 for soil (LaGrega, Buckingham, and Evans).





**Table 5-7.** Average Body Weight and Ingestion Rates for Adults and Children



Averaging time for non-carcinogens is taken as the exposure duration, while averaging time for carcinogens is 70 years (LaGrega, Buckingham, and Evans). Table 5-8 shows non-carcinogenic chronic daily intake values.

**Table 5-8.** Chronic Daily Intake for Non-carcinogenic Risk Calculations

		<b>Arsenic</b>		<b>Manganese</b>			Vanadium			
	<b>Exposure</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Child</b> aged $6 - 12$	<b>Child</b> aged $2 - 6$	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Child</b> aged $6 - 12$	<b>Child</b> aged $2 - 6$	Adult	<b>Child</b> aged $6 - 12$	<b>Child</b> aged $2 - 6$
<b>Residential</b>	Avg	$1.29e-3$	$3.10e-3$	$1.13e-2$	4.39e-3	1.06e-2	$3.84e-2$	$1.16e-4$	2.81e-4	$1.02e-3$
	Max	$5.14e-4$	$1.24e-5$	4.50e-2	8.43e-3	$2.03e-2$	7.37e-2	$2.07e-4$	4.99e-4	$1.81e-3$
<b>Recreational</b> day use	Avg	7.35e-6	1.77e-5	6.43e-5	$2.51e-5$	$6.06e-5$	$2.20e-4$	6.65e-7	$1.61e-6$	5.82e-6
	Max	$2.94e-5$	7.09e-5	2.57e-4	4.82e-5	$1.16e-4$	$4.21e-4$	$1.18e-6$	2.85e-6	1.03e-5
<b>Recreational</b> camping	Avg	$6.13e-6$	1.48e-5	5.36e-5	$2.09e-5$	$5.05e-5$	1.83e-4	5.54e-7	$1.34e-6$	4.85e-6
	Max	$2.45e-5$	5.91e-5	$2.14e-4$	$4.01e-5$	$9.69e-5$	$3.51e-4$	9.85e-7	2.38e-6	8.62e-6
<b>Visiting</b>	Avg	$5.51e-5$	$1.33e-4$	4.82e-4	1.88e-4	4.54e-4	1.65e-3	4.99e-6	$1.20e-5$	4.37e-5
	Max	$2.20e-4$	$5.32e-4$	$1.93e-3$	$3.61e-4$	8.72e-4	$3.16e-3$	$8.86e-6$	$2.14e-5$	7.76e-5
Remedial Worker	Avg	$3.06e-4$	۰.	۰	$1.05e-3$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	۰	2.77e-5	۰	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$
	Max	$1.22e-3$	$\blacksquare$	۰.	$2.01e-3$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	٠	4.92e-5	$\blacksquare$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$

Table 5-9 shows the carcinogenic chronic daily intake values.

able <b>o</b> on only bany mano for oarloor rhon oaloaidhono						
		<b>Arsenic</b>				
		<b>Child aged</b>		<b>Child aged</b>		
	<b>Exposure</b>	<b>Adult</b>	$6 - 12$	$2 - 6$		
<b>Residential</b>	Avg	$5.51e-4$	2.66e-4	6.43e-4		
	Max	$2.20e-3$	1.06e-3	2.57e-3		
<b>Recreational</b> day use	Avg	1.05e-6	$1.52e-6$	3.68e-6		
	Max	$4.20e-6$	$6.08e-6$	1.47e-5		
<b>Recreational</b> camping	Avg	8.75e-8	2.11e-7	7.66e-7		
	Max	3.50e-7	8.44e-7	$3.06e-6$		
<b>Visiting</b>	Avg	2.36e-5	$1.14e-5$	2.76e-5		
	Max	9.44e-5	4.56e-5	$1.10e-4$		
<b>Remedial</b> <b>Worker</b>	Avg	4.38e-6				
	Max	1.75e-5				

**Table 5-9.** Chronic Daily Intake for Cancer Risk Calculations





# **5.1.1.5 Risk Characterization**

Non-carcinogenic risk and carcinogenic risk are considered incremental. Unlike other risks, non-carcinogenic and carcinogenic risk increases over time with repeated exposure. Carcinogenic risk was assessed using Equations 5-4.

**Equation 5-4:** *Carcinogenic risk* (LaGrega, Buckingham, and Evans)

$$
Risk = I * SF
$$

Equation 5-4 shows the risk of excess lifetime cancer due to exposure to the specified chemical. The regulatory goal for excess cancer risk is 1 in a million (10<sup>-6</sup>) (LaGrega, Buckingham, and Evans). However, for the purposes of this site, an acceptable cancer risk was defined as 1 in 10,000 people.

Equation 5-5 is used to calculate non-carcinogenic risk (LaGrega, Buckingham, and Evans).

**Equation 5-5:** *Non-carcinogenic risk* (LaGrega, Buckingham, and Evans)

$$
HI = I/RfD
$$

*HI = hazard index*

Hazard indices cannot simply be added together to calculate cumulative hazard index. If possible, they should be summed up by an organ specific basis. A hazard index below 1.0 is deemed acceptable (LaGrega, Buckingham, and Evans). However, for the purposes of this risk assessment, the risk calculations do not discriminate between organs. Therefore, individual hazard indices were summed to compute a cumulative hazard index.





Table 5-10 shows the hazard indices for each exposure scenario and contaminant. Hazard indices greater than 1.0 are highlighted in yellow.



**Table 5-10.** Hazard Indices

![](_page_33_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_1.jpeg)

Table 5-11 shows the arsenic cancer risk for each exposure scenario. Cancer risks greater than 1 in 10,000 are highlighted in yellow.

![](_page_33_Picture_381.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_382.jpeg)

## **5.1.1.6 Non-cancer Risk Interpretation**

Individually, manganese and vanadium do not contribute a significant amount to the hazard indices. Under a residential exposure scenario, all exposed populations are at risk due to arsenic exposure (average and maximum). Children aged 2 – 6 are at the greatest risk, while adults are at the lowest risk. No recreational exposure scenarios put any exposed populations at noncarcinogenic risk. Under a visiting scenario, children aged 6 -12 exposed maximally to arsenic are at risk, while children aged 2 – 6 exposed to arsenic (average and maximum) are at risk. Remedial workers are at risk strictly due to arsenic exposure (average and maximum).

## **5.1.1.7 Cancer Risk Interpretation**

Under a residential exposure scenario, all exposed populations (average and maximum) are at risk of developing cancer due to arsenic exposure. Children

![](_page_34_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_1.jpeg)

aged  $2 - 6$  are at the greatest risk, while children aged  $6 - 12$  are at the lowest risk. This is because a children aged 6 – 12 weigh more than children aged 2 – 6, but are exposed for a shorter period of time than adults. No recreational exposure scenarios put exposed populations at an elevated cancer risk. Under a visiting scenario, all populations are at risk if exposed maximally to arsenic. A child aged  $2 - 6$  is at the greatest risk. Remedial workers are not at an elevated risk of cancer under average or maximal exposure.

# <span id="page-34-0"></span>**5.1.2 Ecological Risk Assessment**

The following four-step procedure outlined by the EPA was used to characterize human health risk (EPA C, 2015):

- Planning and Scoping
- Problem Formation (Phase I)
- Analysis (Phase II)
- Risk Characterization (Phase III)

# **5.1.2.1 Planning and Scoping**

The contaminants of concern on-site are arsenic, manganese and vanadium. No wildlife with the exception of an unidentified bird were at the site during the sampling trip. Unidentified animal foot prints and droppings were also observed on site. Flora could be identified on site based off photographs. However, fauna were identified using online sources.

The primary source of contaminants are the uncapped mine tailings. However, background concentrations for arsenic were found to be high. Therefore, background arsenic also poses a risk to the flora and fauna. As the contaminants are found in the soil phase, soil ingestion presents the primary exposure route for the wildlife on site. In addition, wildlife are also at risk of inhaling contaminated soil. Plants on site are assumed to uptake arsenic, manganese, and vanadium. Therefore, plant ingestion presents an additional exposure scenario for wildlife on site.

Data were insufficient in order to quantitatively determine harmful dosages for each contaminant. Therefore, this risk assessment is presented qualitatively.

![](_page_35_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Picture_1.jpeg)

# **5.1.2.2 Mammalian Contaminant Exposure Symptoms**

Arsenic exposure in mammals can cause the following health effects (EPA D):

- cancer
- embryo malformation (teratogen)
- mutations
- fatigue
- gastrointestinal disease
- neuropathy
- skin lesions
- skin cancer
- anemia.

The EPA did not specify the animals that these symptoms were expressed in.

Manganese exposure in mammals can cause the following health effects (EPA D):

- brain chemical alterations
- gastric irritation,
- delayed testicular development,
- low birth weights
- behavioral changes
- muscular weakness

The EPA did not specify the animals that these symptoms were expressed in.

Vanadium exposure in mammals can cause the following health effects (Domingo):

- reproductive and developmental toxin
- decreased fertility
- embryolethality
- fetotoxin
- teratogen

Vanadium toxicity data was taken from tests conducted on rats, mice, and hamsters.

![](_page_36_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_1.jpeg)

# **5.1.2.3 Bird Contaminant Exposure Symptoms**

Arsenic exposure in birds can cause the following health effects (EPA D):

- blood-cell damage
- gut-blood vessel destruction
- slowness
- jerkiness
- seizures
- growth and behavioral problems
- immobility

The EPA did not specify the animals that these symptoms were expressed in. However, these symptoms are known to occur in birds of prey such as the barn owl and sparrow hawk (Koivula).

Toxicological studies suggest that arsenic tolerance in birds depends on the species.

Manganese exposure in birds can cause the following health effects (EPA D):

- decreased hemoglobin
- anemia
- reduced growth

The EPA did not specify the animals that these symptoms were expressed in.

Vanadium exposure in birds can cause the following health effects (Koivula):

- histopathological changes in mallards and geese found in intestine, kidney, heart, and liver.
- Blood chemistry changes
- intestinal hemorrhaging
- liver lesions
- kidney congestion found in chronic exposure
- diminished egg production
- altered metabolic rates

Vanadium toxicity data was taken from studies conducted on mallards and Canada geese.

![](_page_37_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_1.jpeg)

# **5.1.2.4 Reptile Contaminant Exposure Symptoms**

No toxicological data was found for reptile exposure to arsenic, manganese, or vanadium. However, contaminant exposure data were found for desert tortoises. Arsenic exposure in desert tortoises has been associated with diseased tortoises (Berry, 2001). Exospore to arsenic may cause shell disease, mycoplasmosis, and upper respiratory tract disease. Manganese and vanadium has been found in elevated in ill or dying tortoises (Homer, 1996). However, no data was present to indicate what health effects these contaminants have on desert tortoises. Desert tortoises are considered completely herbivorous in the wild (Arizona Game and Fish). However, they are known to ingest soil and stones (Esque, 1991). Desert tortoises are at risk of arsenic exposure due to ingestion and inhalation (Berry, 2001). In addition, desert tortoise habitats extend into and near mining sites.

# **5.1.2.5 Plant Contaminant Exposure Symptoms**

Arsenic exposure in plants can cause the following health effects (EPA D):

- wilting
- chlorosis
- browning
- dehydration
- mortality
- light activation inhibition

The EPA did not specify the plants that these symptoms were expressed in.

Manganese exposure in plants can cause the following health effects (Fernando):

- possibly disrupts photosynthetic electron flow in chloroplasts, may depend on light availability
- photo-oxidative stress
- may compete with other cations in metabolism and transport. Can cause nutrient deficiencies.

Light and temperature may impact manganese toxicity in plants. The manganese toxicity data was not specific to any plants.

There are no indications that vanadium exposure under natural conditions is toxic to plants (USGS). However, under laboratory conditions, vanadium exposure is toxic to germinating seeds, can cause extreme chlorosis and dwarfing. As little as 0.5 ppm may be toxic to plants in nutrient solutions.

![](_page_38_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Picture_1.jpeg)

# **5.1.2.6 Problem Formation**

Table 5-12 shows the plants and animals being considered for the ecological risk assessment.

![](_page_38_Picture_225.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Picture_226.jpeg)

Because plants are considered primary producers, they are considered to be at a lower risk. Herbivorous animals are considered to be at medium risk. Animals at high trophic levels are considered to be at the greatest risk. This is because there is potential for contaminants to bioaccumulate (Newman, 2010). However, trophic studies consistently show little evidence for biomagnification of metals and metalloids. In spite of this, some studies have found evidence for arsenic biomagnification. Table 5-13 outlines the trophic position that each plant and animal occupy.

**Table 5-13.** Trophic Level for Plants and Animals (Journey North, Fauser, CK-12, Desert Tortoise, HLCS, Sammi)

<b>Primary</b>						
<b>Producer</b>	Yucca	Creosote				
Primary	Hummingbird	<b>Desert</b>				
<b>Consumer</b>		tortoise				
<b>Secondary</b>					Desert	
<b>Consumer</b>	Rattlesnake	<b>Jackrabbit</b>	Coyote	Raven	horned-lizard <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Tertiary</b>	Red-tailed					
<b>Consumer</b>	hawk	Covote <sup>2</sup>	Cougar			
1. Trophic position of the desert horned-lizard was estimated						
2. Coyotes may occupy the trophic level of secondary or tertiary consumer.						

## **5.1.2.3 Analysis and Risk Characterization**

Due to insufficient data availability, a quantitative analysis and risk characterization cannot be completed. However, minimal plant life was found growing on the tailings pile. This indicates that the contaminants found in the tailings are hazardous to plant life. Because the desert tortoise is listed as

![](_page_39_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_1.jpeg)

endangered, it is suggested that remediation efforts are aimed at preserving its habitat.

For the purposes of this risk assessment, it is assumed that arsenic poses the greatest risk to wildlife due to its high concentration and limited potential for trophic transfer. Manganese and vanadium are considered to pose a risk to wildlife. However, they are not assumed to biomagnify. Therefore, manganese and vanadium pose a risk to wildlife strictly due to contaminant exposure.

For the purposes of this risk assessment, tertiary consumers are considered to be at the greatest risk due to arsenic biomagnification. In addition, the desert tortoise is considered to be at the highest risk as well. This is because the desert tortoise is considered an endangered species, not because of its trophic position. Secondary consumers (rattlesnake, jackrabbit, coyote, raven, desert horned-lizard) are considered at high risk due to arsenic biomagnification. The hummingbird is a primary consumer, meaning that it is at medium risk due to minimal arsenic biomagnification. The primary consumers (creosote bush, yucca) are considered to be at low risk because there is no potential for them to be exposed to biomagnified arsenic.

# <span id="page-39-0"></span>**6.0 Summary and Conclusions**

Using the Work Plan as a guide, Magma Consulting took samples from the AZ Magma Mine and analyzed them using XRF and ICP analysis to determine possible contaminants of concern. These contaminants included arsenic, manganese, and vanadium. For arsenic, a human health risk assessment was completed to reveal the site as a risk to residents of Chloride and visitors near the site. An ecological risk assessment revealed the high levels of arsenic within the soil to be a risk to the desert tortoise, in particular. The XRF data did not correlate with the ICP data.

Magma Consulting recommends further analysis into the site be made. A review of the XRF soil sample data taken by Magma Consulting should be completed to confirm these PA/SI results.

![](_page_40_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Picture_1.jpeg)

# <span id="page-40-1"></span><span id="page-40-0"></span>**7.0 Project Management**

# **7.1 Project Schedule**

The Gantt chart from Magma Consulting's project proposal in December, 2016 is presented in Figure 7-1.

![](_page_40_Figure_5.jpeg)

**Figure 7-1.** Project Proposal Gantt Chart

![](_page_41_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Picture_1.jpeg)

Table 7-1 provides a comparison between Magma Consulting's projected completion dates and its actual completion dates. Tasks in green were completed ahead of schedule or ontime, while tasks in red were completed after the projected completion date.

![](_page_41_Picture_37.jpeg)

## **Table 7-1.** Projected vs. Actual Completion Dates

Magma Consulting was late to complete its ICP analysis largely because it had difficulty in finding a laboratory capable of analyzing arsenic. Once the ICP analysis was complete, the team slowly caught back up to its projected schedule.

![](_page_42_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_1.jpeg)

# <span id="page-42-0"></span>**7.2 Staffing and Cost of Services**

Table 7-2 shows Magma Consulting's projected person-hour breakdown of tasks for the project.

![](_page_42_Picture_394.jpeg)

## **Table 7-2.** Project Person-Hour Breakdown of Project Tasks

![](_page_43_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_1.jpeg)

Table 7-3 shows Magma Consulting's actual person-hour breakdown of tasks for the project. Tasks that required less hours than projected are highlighted in green, tasks that matched the projected hours are not highlighted, and tasks that required more hours than projected are highlighted in red.

![](_page_43_Picture_425.jpeg)

## **Table 7-3.** Actual Person-Hour Breakdown of Project Tasks

The primary reason for the differences in Magma Consulting's projected and actual hours is the fact that the team went from 4 people to 3 people in late December, 2016. Nonetheless, the hours per person still fell below the team's projection. This is due to lab analyses, for the most part, taking less time than projected.

![](_page_44_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_1.jpeg)

Table 7-4 provides a breakdown of Magma Consulting's projected and actual costs for the project.

![](_page_44_Picture_35.jpeg)

## **Table 7-4.** Projected vs. Actual Hours and Costs

The actual cost for the project was approximately two-thirds of what was projected. This is due to the large difference in projected and actual hours spent on the project. The cost of all other items were fairly close to what was projected.

![](_page_45_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Picture_1.jpeg)

# <span id="page-45-0"></span>**8.0 References**

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![](_page_46_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Picture_1.jpeg)

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![](_page_47_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Picture_1.jpeg)

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