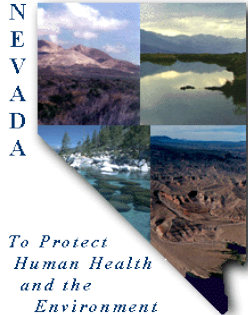


## RECLAMATION, CLOSURE & REMEDIATION OF HISTORIC MINING ACTIVITIES



### Robinson Project, Magma Copper Company and BHP Copper White Pine County, Nevada<sup>1</sup>

The Robinson Project involved redevelopment of the Robinson District, a copper mining area near Ely, Nevada that had been mined by various operators for almost 100 years. Over 3000 acres of land disturbance and impaired surface water and groundwater were associated with historical mining operations. At the same time mining activities were being re-initiated and an environmental management strategy needed to be developed that addressed both historic and future environmental actions

#### Actions

Mr. Dyhr acted as the senior site environmental manager and later as the corporate environmental manager for this project.

- Directed technical groundwater and surface water investigations to support an Environmental Impact Statement for the redevelopment of this mine. It was critically important in this program to determine the real environmental effects to rebut project opponents and critics desire to overstate them;
- Directed the development of a technical and legal strategy to effectively manage the historic environmental issues on the site through a voluntary consent agreement with the State of Nevada;
- Implemented site reclamation activities that included use of cattle to mitigate harsh soil conditions;



**Robinson Mine**

#### Results

The Robinson Project was successfully permitted, even though confronted with serious opposition by national environmental groups.

Subsequent to re-initiation of operations, the management of historic mining environmental issues was also successfully implemented. This provided both legal protections from CERCLA and Clean Water Act actions via a voluntary consent agreement and a flexible program for integration of remediation activities and current mine operations. The company was also able to effectively demonstrate that clean up and reclamation could be achieved with practical, cost-effective approaches. Additionally the company achieved an exceptional level of trust and confidence with state and federal regulators to address their concerns, and to pursue flexible solutions to problems. Innovative reclamation techniques also generated significant positive public perception of the project.

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<sup>1</sup> Personal experience of Mr. Timothy M. Dyhr