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## **ADEQ Director Steve Owens Announces Air Quality Control Permits for Phelps Dodge Miami Facilities in Gila County**

PHOENIX (Nov. 21, 2007) -- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Director Steve Owens announced today that he has signed two air quality control permits for the Phelps Dodge mine and smelter facilities near Miami in Gila County.

The two permits are a renewal permit for the mine and a revision for the smelter's permit to add a coal injection system and an associated dust collector. The permits limit emissions of particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and volatile organic compounds.

"These permits will limit emissions of particulate matter from the facilities, while enabling the mining operations to be conducted productively," Owens said. "These permits also limit visible emissions, as well as dust contamination that could affect residents and their property."

Owens noted that the permits will keep emissions below the levels that would classify the mine as a major source of pollution. In addition, the company will use low sulfur fuel and take other steps to keep emissions down.

The Miami area is currently designated as a federal non-attainment area for coarse particulate matter 10 micrometers or smaller in size (known as PM10). Last year, at Owens' urging, EPA granted ADEQ's request to designate the area as in attainment for sulfur dioxide (SO2) emissions. The area had been in attainment for SO2 since 1985 due to new pollution-control equipment, but EPA did not change the designation until the issue was pursued by Owens and ADEQ.

"It's important to recognize the real progress that is being made to improve air quality in communities like Miami," Owens said.