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CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications, (602) 771-2215

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## **ADEQ Issues Air Quality Permit For Acid Facility at Safford Mine in Graham County**

PHOENIX (Oct. 20, 2008) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Steve Owens announced today that ADEQ has issued a final revised air quality permit for the Freeport-McMoRan mine near Safford in Graham County to enable the company to build a facility to produce sulfuric acid needed in the mining operations.

“This permit revision will enable the mine to continue its operations more effectively and provide good-paying jobs in Graham County, while making sure that air quality and public health in the community are protected,” Owens said. “Having this facility at the mine also will mean that trucks hauling sulfuric acid will no longer be driving through the community.”

Owens noted that ADEQ received only one comment on the draft permit after it was issued for public review in August.

The revised permit allows the company to build and run a 1,350-ton-a-day facility to produce sulfuric acid, which is used in the process that extracts copper from soil. The permit also allows a propane start-up boiler, a propane pre-heater and a cooling tower.

The permit requires the company to install air pollution control equipment which will limit, to safe levels, emissions of sulfur dioxide, particulate matter and sulfuric acid mist.

To ensure that the Freeport-McMoRan mine remains within state and federal standards, the permit requires the company to monitor emissions on a continuous basis and regularly provide the monitoring data to ADEQ. Construction on the facility began this week and is expected to be completed in about one year.