

GeoSystems Analysis Expands



GeoSystems Analysis Inc. of Tucson, Arizona announces the addition of Mr. Bob Rice (left) and Dr. Mike Yao (right) to the firm.

Rice will be responsible for overseeing the GeoSystems Analysis hydrologic testing laboratory and will manage groundwater recharge and riparian restoration studies. He has 38 years of experience in soil science and hydrology and is the author or coauthor of 73 publications on measuring the hydraulic conductivity of soils and aquifer material, wastewater renovation, and preferential flow and spatial variability of solute transport in the vadose zone.

Yao will be responsible for managing vadose zone investigations and monitoring and modeling studies. He has 17 years of experience in large field-scale studies on water and solute movement through the unsaturated and saturated zones and the application of computer models to these processes. His expertise includes the use of invasive and noninvasive geophysical techniques to measure soil water and solute movement in the vadose zone, and field and laboratory characterization of unsaturated porous media and subsurface monitoring system design.

Visit www.gsanalysis.com.

Phelps Dodge Reaches \$484 Million Agreement with New Mexico

On May 22, Phelps Dodge Mining Company announced it had reached an agreement with the State of New Mexico on the financial assurance required as part of the closure and closeout plans related to the company's operations at Tyrone, Chino, and Cobre. The financial assurance is a

requirement of two state laws, the Water Quality Act and the Mining Act. Both laws require companies to provide financial assurance to the state that reclamation and closure work can proceed at a mine site in the event that a company is unable to complete the work. Under New Mexico law, the amounts are premised on hiring a third party to complete the necessary work. The company plans to complete the required reclamation at its New Mexico operations at the appropriate time in the life of each respective mine.

Under the agreement, Phelps Dodge Tyrone Inc., Chino Mines Co., and Cobre Mining Co. will provide financial assurance to the state in the amount of \$484.1 million (net present value) through a combination of \$50 million in cash (10.3 percent), \$96.8 million in collateral (20 percent), accelerated reclamation expenditures during the next ten years totaling \$30 million (6.2 percent), and a \$307.3 million corporate guarantee (63.5 percent). The agreement also requires the cash component to increase by \$25 million within a five-year period ending July 1, 2008, with an equivalent reduction in the amount of collateral.

Until the agreement was reached, the company had met its financial assurance obligations through surety bonds. The insurance industry, however, no longer makes these bonds economically feasible to support reclamation programs.

According to the Phelps Dodge news release, the agreement has the support of the state's governor, environmental secretary, and secretary of energy, minerals, and natural resources. It is subject to public review and comment.

Visit www.phelpsdodge.com.

Multi-Pure's Arsenic Reduction System Receives First NSF Certification

On June 2, NSF International announced the certification of Multi-Pure Corporation's drinking water systems for

pentavalent arsenic reduction. Multi-Pure's drinking water systems are the first to be NSF Certified under NSF/ANSI Standard 53 (Drinking Water Treatment Units - Health Effects) since the pentavalent arsenic reduction claim was added to the standard. Multi-Pure's headquarters are in Las Vegas, Nevada.

NSF/ANSI Standard 53 covers point-of-use and point-of-entry systems designed to reduce specific health-related contaminants that may be present in drinking water. The pentavalent arsenic reduction claim was added to the standard in response to industry, regulatory, and consumer demand for water treatment devices to meet the new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standard for arsenic in drinking water.

The NSF Drinking Water Treatment Unit Certification Program conducts testing according to national standards to verify contaminant reduction claims, product structural integrity, and material safety through material formulation reviews and extraction testing. The program conducts label and other product literature reviews to verify conformity to the requirements of the standard. In addition, periodic product retesting and unannounced production facility audits ensure that drinking water systems continue to meet NSF/ANSI Standard 53 requirements.

NSF International, known as "The Public Health and Safety Company™," is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization. It is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to develop American National Standards. ANSI's accreditation verifies that NSF develops standards in a manner to ensure openness and due process allowing for equity and fair play. The organization is internationally known for standards development, product certification, education, and risk management for public health and safety. The association's primary stakeholder groups include industry, the regulatory community, and the public at large.

Visit www.multipureco.com and www.nsf.org.