

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
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PAPAGO MINING PROJECT EIS NOW AVAILABLE

The final environmental impact statement for the Vekol Hills Project, a proposed open pit copper and molybdenum mine on the Papago Indian Reservation in Pinal County, Arizona, has been completed, the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced today.

Notice of the availability of the EIS is being published in the Federal Register.

The project calls for mining and related activities to be conducted under the terms of mineral and surface leases granted by the Papago Tribe, if approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

The project will include 2,030 acres of desert and foothill terrain, some of which has already been affected by past mining activities.

Single copies of the EIS may be obtained from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Phoenix Area Office, 3030 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Ariz., 85011. Copies of the statement are available for inspection, also, at the BIA's Washington, D.C. office and the Papago Agency office.

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