



News Release

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Kennecott Utah Copper Commits to Help Property Owners Clean Up the Historic Bingham-Magna Ditch

(Copperton, Utah - May 29, 2007) – As part of its continuing commitment to clean up historic copper mining and processing sites in the Oquirrh Mountains, Kennecott Utah Copper (KUCC) today announced that the company will assist property owners with the removal of contaminated sediments along the historic Bingham-Magna Ditch.

Kennecott is working with Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate the extent of arsenic contamination and any associated health risks.

“Kennecott is offering its assistance and is committing to a program to clean up the sediments in the ditch,” said Kennecott President and CEO Bill Champion. “We are confident that as long as these sediments remain buried, they pose no risk to human health; however, our preferred approach is to remove contaminated ditch sediments where possible.”

Where Kennecott assists with the removal of ditch sediments, the work will be done with full oversight from the EPA and UDEQ and in a manner that does not create risk of exposure to residents or neighbors.

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The Bingham-Magna Ditch was constructed and used in the 1930s to convey wastewater from Copperton to Magna over easements acquired by the Utah Copper Company, a predecessor of Kennecott Utah Copper. The ditch began west of Copperton, ran east to about 7000 West, then north along through what is now West Jordan, West Valley, Kearns and Magna. It ended at the Utah and Salt Lake Canal on the northwest side of Magna. The ditch was taken out of commission in approximately 1936 and filled in.

Recently, development on the west side of the Salt Lake Valley has exposed portions of the ditch. “With ongoing development on the west side of the Valley, it is in the greater community interest that these sediments be removed, Kennecott is prepared to undertake this multimillion dollar commitment to assist property owners with removal,” says Champion.

Kennecott will be contacting affected property owners over the coming weeks. Kennecott, EPA and UDEQ plan to announce community meetings in the next month to provide further information on the clean up.

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