

---

## PRESS RELEASE

---

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gayle Mabery, Town Manager  
[Gayle.Mabery@clarkdale.az.gov](mailto:Gayle.Mabery@clarkdale.az.gov)

Phone: (928) 639-2415  
Fax: (928) 639-2409

### **Town of Clarkdale Schedules Public Meeting on United Verde Soil Program**

Clarkdale, AZ (May 1, 2015) – The Town of Clarkdale was informed on April 14, 2015, that Freeport Minerals Corporation (Freeport) has submitted an application with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's (ADEQ) Voluntary Remediation Program to undertake the United Verde Soil Program. Freeport has undertaken similar programs in Bisbee, Ajo and Douglas, Arizona.

According to a Fact Sheet developed by Freeport about the project, the United Verde Copper Company operated a copper smelter northwest of Clarkdale from 1915 to 1932. It was reopened in 1935 when Phelps Dodge purchased United Verde and continued to operate until 1953. Freeport is the successor to Phelps Dodge Corporation.

According to the Fact Sheet, because the United Verde smelter operated in an era before emissions control equipment was commonly used, historical air emissions from the smelter may have deposited metal-bearing particles on nearby soil. Freeport decided to conduct a soil testing program to investigate potential smelter-related impacts to soil in the area of Clarkdale near the former smelter. If test results determine that metal concentrations in soil exceed the target cleanup levels, then Freeport will offer soil replacement and landscaping restoration. This soil testing and cleanup program is named the United Verde Soil Program.

Under the program, owners of eligible properties within an ADEQ approved initial study area will be contacted and have the opportunity to have soil on their properties sampled and tested for smelter-related metals that are associated with the United Verde/Jerome ore body (lead, arsenic and copper).

The Town of Clarkdale is in the early stages of identifying its resource needs in order to effectively address issues relating to this project. During their Council Meeting on April 28, 2015, the Clarkdale Town Council directed staff to amend the Town's contract with the law firm of Squire Patton Boggs to include legal advice and consulting on issues relating to the United Verde Soil Program.

A Special Town Council meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. During the meeting, the Town Council will hear a presentation from ADEQ about their Voluntary Remediation Program. In addition, Freeport will make a formal presentation about the United Verde Soil Program, which will include a discussion of the boundaries of the initial project area. The meeting will be held in the Clark Memorial Clubhouse, 19 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Clarkdale, and the public is invited to attend the meeting.

A copy of Freeport's Fact Sheet about the project has been posted on the Town of Clarkdale's webpage. Announcements for dates and times of future public meetings on this topic will also be made available on the website: <http://www.clarkdale.az.gov>

For general information on the United Verde Soil Program, contact Alicia Voss at Freeport Mineral Corporation, 602-366-8049.

For information from the Town of Clarkdale, contact Town Manager Gayle Mabery at 928-639-2400.