JANICE K. BREWER
Governor

SANDRA A. FABRITZ-WHITNEY
Director

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

3550 North Central Avenue, Second Floor
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85012-2105

(602) 771-8500

March 23, 2011

Mr. John Anderson
2631 N. Presidential Dr.
Florence, Arizona 85132

Dear Mr. Anderson,

I am writing in response to your January 15, 2011 email to Herb Guenther in which you requested information on the Curis in-situ leach mining project near Florence (aka Florence Copper Project). Specifically, you asked:

" I would [like] to request information concerning how many wells are in the same aquifier and within a five mile flow of the proposed Curis Resources In-situ copper mining wells located at 1575 W. Hunt Hwy, Florence, AZ. Also would like to know the ADWR opinion of the water flow direction . . . "

In response to your first question I have attached, Map 1, which shows all the registered wells that are located within a 5 mile radius of the Curis mine property. The total number of registered wells found within a 5 mile radius was 524 (see attached spreadsheet for additional information concerning those wells). Please be advised that an analysis of how many wells tap the same aquifer as the proposed Florence Copper Project is a major task that would require substantial additional information and staff resources that the Department simply cannot provide.

Arrows showing the general directions of groundwater flow are shown on Map 2. This map presents groundwater elevation data that were collected by the ADWR Field Services Section during the Winter of 2008/09. The map shows that regional groundwater flow during the 2008/09 winter season was generally directed toward the north and west in the general area of the Florence Copper Project.

You also asked:

"Curis also claims the Aquitard acts as a natural barrier to water movement. Curis also maintains they will be extracting 30% more water from he acquifer than they will be pumping in. If there is no water movement where will this additional water come from?"

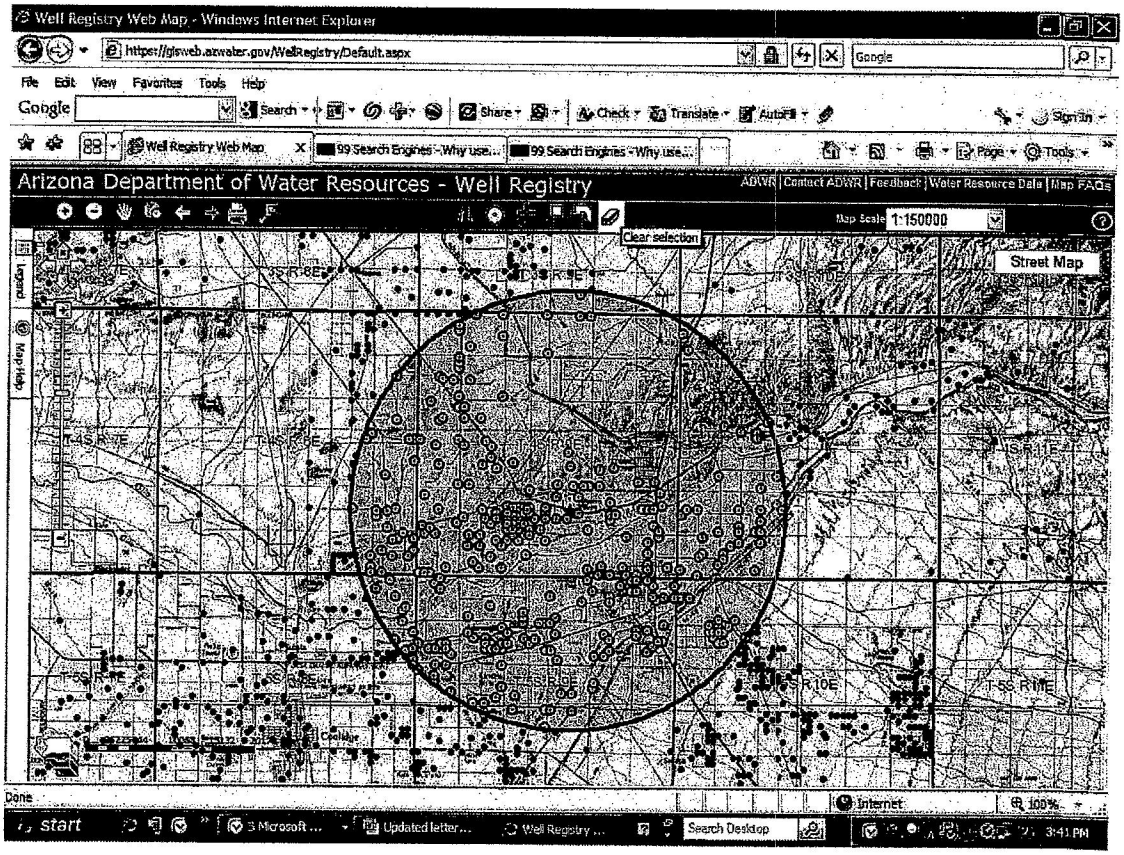
As you may be aware, Curis has recently filed an application with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) for an amended Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) to conduct new field testing at the Florence Copper Project site. Over the next several months ADEQ staff will review the APP application and, upon completion of the review, will be able to provide responses to questions you may have concerning sources of water for mine operations and other technical concerns. You can review the file for this site, including the APP application, by contacting ADEQ's Records Center via e-mail at recordscenter@azdeq.gov, or via fax at (602) 771-4389. If you would like to contact ADEQ regarding the APP application, please contact Jerry Smit, Groundwater Section Manager at 602-771-4827.

In closing, I hope the information the Department has provided is useful to you and please contact me if you have any further questions. My number is 602-771-8537.

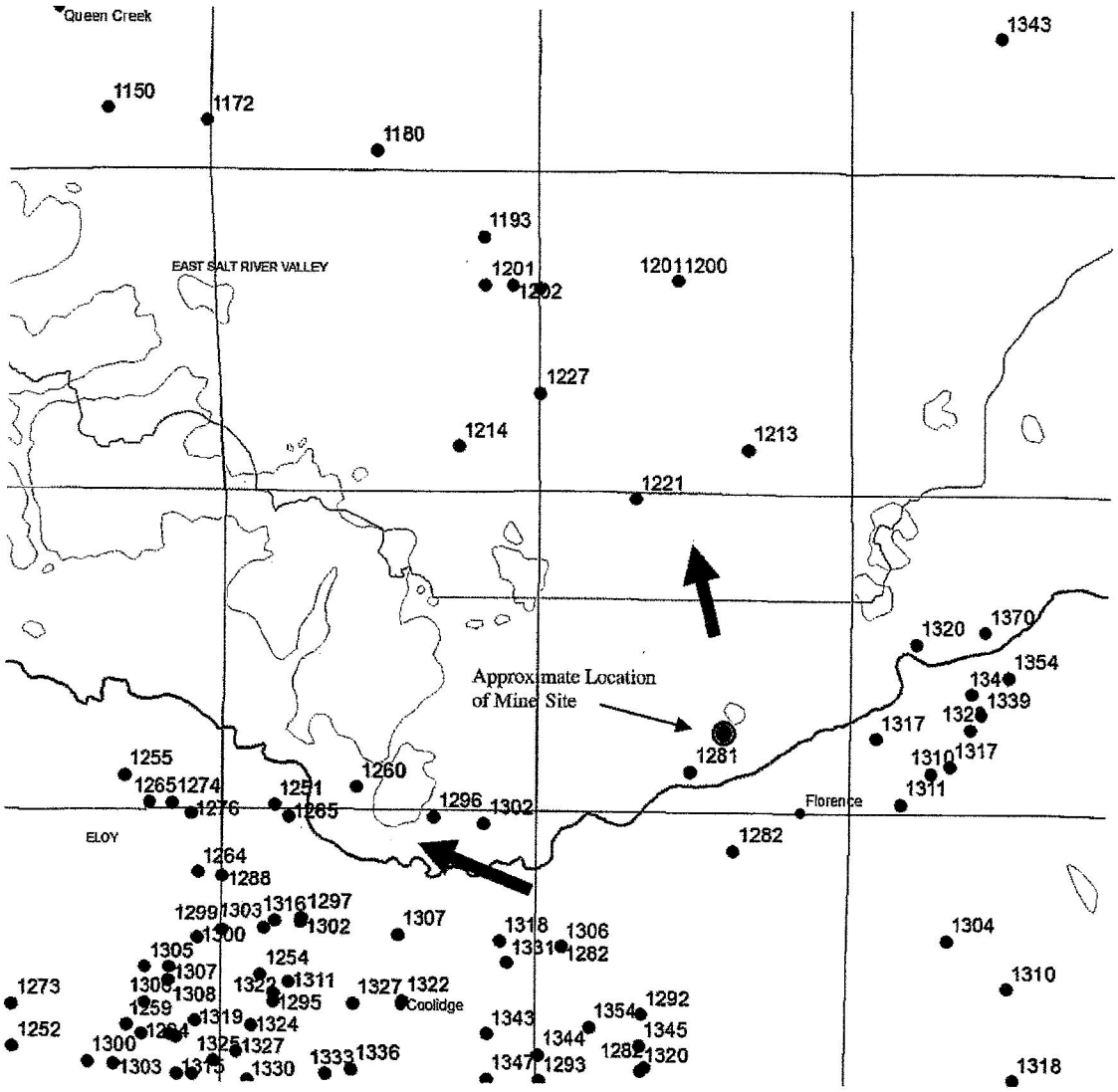
Sincerely,

Frank Corkhill
Chief Hydrologist
Arizona Department of Water Resources

CC Jerry Smit, AzDEQ



Map 1 Locations of 524 registered wells within 5 miles of Curis In-situ Leach Mine site



Map 2 Water level elevations (Winter 2008/09). Blue arrows show the general directions of regional groundwater flow in the vicinity of Curis-Florence Copper Project