

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**FLORENCE COPPER, INC.  
UIC PERMIT APPLICATION  
FLORENCE COPPER PROJECT – PRODUCTION TEST FACILITY**

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**ATTACHMENT U – DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS**

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## **U.1 Introduction**

This Attachment U has been prepared in support of an application (Application) by Florence Copper, Inc. (Florence Copper) to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for issuance of an Underground Injection Control Class III (Area) Permit (UIC Permit) for the planned Production Test Facility (PTF), to be located at the Florence Copper Project (FCP) site in Pinal County, Arizona. This Attachment provides a brief description of Florence Copper and the business associated with the FCP.

## **U.2 Description of Business**

Florence Copper Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Curis Resources Ltd. (Curis), a mineral development company associated with Hunter Dickinson Inc. (HDI), a diversified global mining company with a 25-year history of mineral development success. Curis is focused on the acquisition, development, and operation of high-quality, next-generation copper properties in progressive jurisdictions around the world. It is currently focused on advancing its 100%-owned Florence Copper project in Arizona, USA to production.

Curis' principal asset is the FCP in central Arizona. The FCP hosts a 429.5 million ton measured and indicated copper oxide resource grading 0.331% copper and containing 2.84 billion pounds of copper (at a 0.05% copper cutoff grade). The known mineral resources at FCP have excellent potential to support an in-situ copper recovery (ISCR) operation. ISCR is a low-cost, environmentally sound process for extracting minerals from deposits not amenable to conventional mining.

Florence Copper (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Curis Resources Ltd.), acquired a 100% interest in the mineral and surface rights of the Site in February 2010. Corporate offices for Florence Copper are at 1575 West Hunt Highway, Florence, Arizona, 85132.

Extensive geological, engineering, and pilot ISCR test work undertaken by a previous Site owner, BHP Copper Inc., indicates that the FCP has the potential to be a low-cost copper producer with significantly lower capital requirements than conventional mining has. Road, rail, power, and water infrastructure are all located in close proximity to the Site, which also features on-site administration offices and test facilities. In addition, Florence Copper believes there are a number of opportunities to enhance operational performance and production efficiencies at the FCP.

Florence Copper is advancing the FCP through the USEPA and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality permitting processes to authorize pilot-scale operations, and is conducting studies in preparation for starting a proposed pilot-scale PTF in 2014.

Data developed during PTF operations will be used to support permit applications for commercial-scale operations. When commercial production is achieved, the FCP is intended produce between 76 and 86 million pounds of pure copper cathode per year.

## **U.3 Standard Industrial Classification Code**

The FCP fits into two categories under the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. SIC is a system for classifying business establishments according to type of economic activity. The SIC system was replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) starting in 1997, but several business sectors can still be classified with SIC-based codes. Both SIC and NAICS classify establishments by their primary type of activity. The USEPA UIC Permit Application form (USEPA Form 7520-6, Rev. 12-11 [Form]) asks for the SIC codes in Item VII of the Form.

The PTF falls within the SIC-1021 definition for mineral extraction, while the copper production plant (a solvent extraction/electrowinning technology for extracting copper from the ISCR process solutions) falls within the SIC-3331 definition for copper production. Both SIC codes are included on the Form.