

PUBLIC NOTICE

Determination of No Historic Properties Affected Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Availability of Health Risk Assessment Workplan

Romic Southwest is a hazardous waste storage and treatment facility on the Gila River Indian Community near Chandler, Arizona. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in the process of making a permit decision at Romic.

National Historic Preservation Act

As part of the permit decision, EPA must comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). In compliance with the NHPA, EPA must determine whether there are any historic properties near Romic that could be affected by operations at Romic. The term “historic properties” includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian Tribe.

After completing several steps of the NHPA process, EPA has determined that there are no historic properties that could be affected by Romic.

The two major steps leading to this determination were:

- EPA established an Area of Potential Effects (shown on the map to the right) after consultation with the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC), the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and Romic, and after requesting comments from the public.
- EPA asked for information from GRIC, SHPO, BIA, Romic, and the public about historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects.

EPA received notice from GRIC and SHPO that there were no historic properties to their knowledge within the Area of Potential Effects. EPA received no comments from the public regarding historic properties, and EPA's own research of publicly available documents also did not produce any information about historic proper-

ties. As a result, EPA is today making a determination that there are no historic properties which may be affected by Romic. EPA has notified GRIC, SHPO, BIA, and Romic of this determination, and they may provide EPA with objections to or concerns about this determination within 30 days. EPA is also open to additional information or comment from the public during a 30-day time period beginning with the date of this public notice.

If there are no objections to this determination, this will conclude EPA's Section 106 Review under NHPA, and EPA will proceed with our permit decision at Romic.

Health Risk Assessment Workplan

As part of the permit decision, EPA asked Romic to prepare a workplan for a health risk assessment of the facility's operations. The workplan presents a detailed approach that Romic proposes for evaluating the potential health risks and ecological impacts that may result from the facility operations, including air emissions of hazardous constituents.

We are interested in hearing your comments on the Health Risk Assessment Workplan.

If you have any questions or comments on the NHPA determination, or on the Health Risk Assessment Workplan, you may write, email, or call Karen Scheuermann at:

Karen Scheuermann
US EPA Region 9 (WST-4)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

scheuermann.karen@epa.gov
phone: (415) 972-3356

Or you may leave a message on EPA's toll-free number (800) 231-3075 and we will return your call.



A detailed map, additional documents regarding the steps leading up to the NHPA determination, and the Health Risk Assessment Workplan are available at the GRIC Department of Environmental Quality, 35 Pine Street, Sacaton, AZ or EPA's San Francisco office, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA. You may also find information about Romic and the National Historic Preservation Act at these locations.

In the future, EPA will publish separate public notices regarding other aspects of the permit decision at Romic, such as the draft permit decision.