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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**Division of Air Quality, Manager New Source Review Permits**

## Division of Air Quality Issues Kennecott Expansion Permit

Salt Lake City, Utah – Bryce Bird, director of the Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) has signed a modified approval order for Kennecott Utah Copper's Bingham Canyon Mine. The permit strengthens requirements on the company to control dust emissions and monitor for air quality in two locations as well as establishing new emission caps for the facility.

The air quality approval order is one of the permit actions required by state agencies to allow Kennecott to increase the amount of materials moved at the mine from 197 million tons to 260 million tons annually.

“After extensive evaluation, we have determined that the permit conditions are consistent with state and federal standards established for air quality permits” said Bird. “With the conditions in the approval order, the expanded operations do not cause air quality to exceed the federal standards and are protective of health and the environment.”

Overall, this modification results in a decrease in emissions allowed by the permit. Kennecott Utah Copper (KUC) has voluntarily requested an emissions cap on the fine particles known as particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and PM<sub>10</sub>, Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) that will limit emissions facility wide. For years KUC has reduced emissions from mine operations by using better dust control techniques, by limiting the miles traveled for operations, the use of cleaner fuels and by upgrading the fleet to utilize lower emitting engines.

The Kennecott proposal was submitted in August 2010 and went through a public process which included two public hearings and an extended public comment period.

Based on the comments received during the public comment period, the DAQ is adding three new conditions to the approval order.

1. Fugitive dust control measures. The DAQ is exceeding the minimum requirements by taking key provisions from the fugitive dust control plan and incorporating those

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conditions into the permit. This will provide assurance that these key provisions for minimizing fugitive dust from the mine will be subjected to public review in order to be modified as opposed to off-permit changes that don't allow for public review afforded by the fugitive dust control plan.

2. **PM<sub>10</sub> ambient air monitoring.** New permit conditions will require Kennecott to conduct ambient monitoring for PM<sub>10</sub> at two locations versus the one that was originally proposed in the draft approval order. The permit will also require daily monitoring versus every three days. Subject to approval by the DAQ, the monitors will be placed at locations where modeling predicts the highest impact. These monitoring stations will provide validation that the PM<sub>10</sub> standard is not being violated as a result of increased Bingham Canyon Mine operations.
3. **Pit retention factor validation.** The permit will require Kennecott to conduct a new study to validate the pit retention factors used in establishing the combined emissions caps for PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>; and for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>. Although these caps for all sources of emissions at the mine are currently not required by regulation, they have been incorporated into the permit to further control and monitor emissions from the pit. As part of the analysis prepared for the approval order change, KUC referenced a 1996 study conducted by the University of Utah to determine that 80 percent of the airborne particulate generated from mine operations will not escape the pit. The additional modeling and independent review will validate the pit retention factor with consideration of the proposed configuration of the mine.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/hottopics/binghamcanyonexpansion.htm>

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