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James Doyle Sell Mining Collection

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May 18, 1979

FILE MEMO

AJO MINE - Cu
Arizona

In 1972 Ajo reserves were reported as 130 million tons of .68% Cu, or a life of about 12 years at 30,000 tpd.

However, during the recent AIME open pit meeting at Ray, Arizona, it was learned that deep drilling encountered ore beneath a barren rhyolite (flow?) and the ultimate pit is now projected to a depth of 1,800', extending the mine life to the year 2020.

Several years ago, J. Kinnison recognized geologic features at Ajo as being similar to those at Mission and hypothesized the existence of a low angle fault with the upper plate having moved north as at Mission. Subsequently, Quintana put down several deep holes on the south, but failed to find the "roots" of the Ajo deposit.

The discovery of ore continuing to considerable depth at Ajo does not prove that the roots of the deposit remain in place, but does suggest that this is most likely the case.

J. H. Courtright
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JHC:jlh

c.c. T.C. Osborne
W.L. Kurtz/F.T. Graybeal

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