

Augusta Resource Corporation: Provides permitting update

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[Augusta Resource Corp.](#) (TSX and NYSE MKT: AZC) ("Augusta" or the "Company") provides a permitting update on its Rosemont Copper project located in Arizona, USA.

The Company has become aware of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) letter that was submitted to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) summarizing their rationale for re-initiation of consultation, which includes the recent sighting of an ocelot in the general study area. The animal was photographed by a remote camera some distance south of the project site. The USFS is currently evaluating the issues raised in the letter and, as the action agency, will decide whether further consultation is necessary.

The USFS has commented informally that it may not be in a position to issue the final Record of Decision (ROD) by the end of the second quarter of 2014. However, until the USFS determines whether consultation with the US FWS must be re-initiated and publishes the definitive ROD schedule, expected by the end of May, it is uncertain when the ROD will be issued. The Company believes that the ROD may be delayed until the third quarter of 2014.

The mandated time frame for consultation under the Endangered Species Act is 135 days. However, consultation has been completed and a detailed Biological Opinion has been issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Therefore, if consultation is reinitiated, Augusta expects this process to be completed within a shorter time period, as the issues that would need to be addressed are limited and much of the analysis has already been completed.

The recent ocelot sighting validates the conclusions of the Rosemont environmental studies, including the Biological Opinion and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), that ocelots likely occur in the Santa Rita Mountains near the project area. A detailed analysis of the project's effects on the ocelot has already been completed in the Biological Opinion. Parts of the conservation measures pledged by Rosemont include surveys, studies, reporting requirements and other mitigation measures for the ocelot as well as other wildlife species found in the region.

Commented Gil Clausen, Augusta's president and CEO, "While we are disappointed with any delay, our expectation is that these final issues will be handled in a timely, expeditious manner."

About Augusta

[Augusta](#) is a base metals company focused on advancing the Rosemont Copper deposit near Tucson, Arizona. Rosemont hosts a large copper/molybdenum reserve that would account for about 10% of U.S. copper output once in production (for details refer to www.augustaresource.com). The exceptional experience and strength of Augusta's management team, combined with the developed infrastructure and robust economics of the Rosemont project, propels Augusta to becoming a solid mid-tier copper producer. Augusta's shares are listed and posted for trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange and the NYSE MKT under the symbol AZC.

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