



Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin

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HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILLS AT BHP MINING OPERATIONS

PINTO VALLEY MINE, MIAMI, ARIZONA

DATE	MATERIAL SPILLED	AMOUNT SPILLED
9/18/96	Sodium Cyanide	1,500 gallons./13,075 lbs.
10/22/97	Mine Waste-Tailings Dam Failure ¹	Approx. 100,000 tons/1-1.5 million cu. ft.

ROBINSON MINE, RUTH, NEVADA

DATE	MATERIAL SPILLED	AMOUNT SPILLED
6/6/96	Sodium Cyanide Process Solution	2,000 gallons
8/15/96	Mill Process Water	5,000 gallons

SAN MANUEL OPERATIONS, SAN MANUEL, ARIZONA

DATE	MATERIAL SPILLED	AMOUNT SPILLED
4/29/96	Sulfuric Acid	140 gal. / 2,148 lbs.
5/11/96	Sulfuric Acid	500 gal. / 7,670 lbs.
6/12/96	Sulfuric Acid	279 gal. / 4,280 lbs.
6/27/96	Sulfuric Acid	698 gal. / 10,707 lbs.
7/17/96	Sulfuric Acid/Arsenic Leachate	9,000 gal.
8/28/96	Sulfuric Acid	186 gal. / 2,853 lbs.
12/16/96	Refinery Leachate w/Arsenic	500 gal.
5/4/97	Sulfuric Acid	186 gal. / 2,861 lbs.
5/27/97	Sulfuric Acid	186 gal. / 2,853 lbs.
9/10/97	Sulfuric Acid	370 gal. / 5,676 lbs.
9/21/97	Sulfuric Acid	600 gal. / 9,204 lbs.
1/15/98	Sulfuric Acid	678 gal. / 10,046 lbs.
2/26/98	Sulfuric Acid	2,000 gal. / 30,680 lbs.
3/24/98	Sulfuric Acid	353 gal. / 5,000 lbs.
4/27/98	Sulfuric Acid	186 gal. / 2,862 lbs.
5/6/98	Sulfuric Acid	932 gal. / 14,300 lbs.
6/28/98	Sulfuric Acid	933 gal. / 14,308 lbs.
7/7/98	Contaminated Stormwater w/Copper/Sulfuric Acid ²	576,000 gal.
11/18/98	Sulfuric Acid	186 gal. / 2,862 lbs.
11/24/98	Sulfuric Acid	119 gal. / 1,830 lbs.
12/30/98	Sulfuric Acid	677 gal. / 10,739 lbs.
5/1/99	Sulfuric Acid	138 gal. / 2,117 lbs.
7/11/99	Sulfuric Acid	502 gal. / 7,700 lbs.
9/29/99	Tailings Pond Dust	Unknown amount released
11/21/99	Tailings	"Large Amount" (AZ DEQ)
11/20/00	Wastewater w/Arsenic	9,900 lbs.

¹ \$558,000 in fines were assessed for the 10/22/97 tailings dam failure at Pinto Valley

² \$18,500 fine assessed, Notice of Violation received.

11/22/00	Sulfuric Acid	5,000 gal. / 76,600 lbs.
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Sources:

Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality, Waste Programs Division

BHP, Annual Reports, 1999, 2000

BHP, Environment and Community Report, 1999

EPA, Sector Facility Indexing Project, Emergency Release Notification System (ERNS) database

Right To Know Network, ERNS database

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