

Early Warning System

DFC-ELMOCHITO

El Mochito Optimization

Quick Facts

Countries	Honduras
Specific Location	Las Vegas Municipality, Santa Barbara Department
Financial Institutions	US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)
Status	Proposed
Bank Risk Rating	A
Borrower	American Pacific Honduras S.A.
Sectors	Mining

Project Description

The Project involves the optimization and expansion of the El Mochito mine, a 70-year old lead, zinc and silver concentrate mine located near the Municipality of Las Vegas, approximately 88 km southwest of the City of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Central America. The mining concession for El Mochito encompasses 11,000 hectares in the La Soledad watershed east of the Santa Barbara National Park. The active mine footprint is 200 hectares (approximately 1.8% of the concession). The main infrastructure consists of a shaft-accessed underground mine and a processing plant that produces separate zinc and lead concentrates. Silver, a by-product of the lead and zinc concentrate is sold as percent silver concentrate and not standalone refined silver. Mineralized material is mined by trackless and conventional underground mining methods, transported, partially crushed underground and then hoisted to the surface by a vertical shaft. Over the years, three tailings facilities have been used, two of which have been retired. The remaining active tailings facility has sufficient storage capacity for several future years. Concentrates are trucked daily to Puerto Cortés located 35 km north of San Pedro Sula on the Gulf of Honduras and shipped by ocean freighters once sufficient material has been stockpiled at the port. The Project involves the following elements: 1) installing a new, underground 442-meter rock only hoisting shaft which will shorted the average underground truck hauling distances by fifty percent, increase hoisting capacity, ventilation, services access and mining capacities; 2) upgrading the underground pumping and water management system that reduces costs by reducing the number of pumps, rationalizing pumping columns, and installing an effective water clarification system which will lead to better pump efficiency; and 3) upgrading the crushing circuit, processing plant, and tailings

Investment Description

- US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)

None of the investment information was available at the moment of the snapshot.

Contact Information

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Unlike many other development finance institutions, DFC does not currently have an access to information policy.

Under the United States Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), DFC is obliged to respond to reasonably formulated requests for Agency records. However, DFC may apply exemptions from release to certain types of information and may charge fees in responding to requests. DFC has a designated FOIA officer who is trained in how to respond to requests and implement the law. You can learn more about filing a FOIA request at: https://www.dfc.gov/foia.

ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION (DFC)

The Office of Accountability is an independent office that addresses complaints about environmental or social issues related to DFC-supported projects. The office provides communities an opportunity to have concerns independently reviewed and addressed. If you submit a complaint to the Office of Accountability, it may assist you by either seeking to address your problems by facilitating a problem solving dialogue between you and those implementing the project and/or investigating whether the DFC complied with its policies to prevent environmental, social, human rights, and labor harms.

You can find more information about the Office of Accountability at: https://www.dfc.gov/who-we-are/office-accountability.

Bank Documents

- ESIA Report
- Initial Project Summary [Original Source]