

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL



SILVER LINK

COPPER CONCENTRATE PROCESSING



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL REGARDING

COPPER CONCENTRATE PROCESSING

I. INTRODUCTION

The Silver Link program, launched in 2023, is a strategic initiative aimed at identifying and addressing supply chain gaps prevalent across various industries in Northeastern Nevada. This innovative program relies on active engagement from industry supply chain and procurement professionals, who contribute valuable input and feedback. These professionals play a crucial role in shedding light on the challenges faced within their companies' supply chains.

The core methodology of the Silver Link program involves analyzing the data and feedback collected from industry professionals. By identifying patterns and consistent challenges, the program seeks to pinpoint systemic issues affecting entire industries. Once supply or service gaps are identified, the Nevada Northern Regional Development Authority (NNRDA) staff takes charge. They prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) tailored to the specific situation and publish it on the Silver Link website, initiating a call for feasible solutions.

The RFPs remain accessible on the website until industry leaders confirm that the identified gap has been successfully addressed by a participating company. This iterative process ensures that solutions are not only found but also implemented, fostering a dynamic and responsive ecosystem.

The overarching objective of the Silver Link program is to attract and strengthen service and supply companies into Northeastern Nevada. By doing so, the program aims to equip industries in the region with the essential resources needed for optimal productivity and efficiency. This proactive approach acknowledges the interconnected nature of supply chains and emphasizes the importance of a well-supported local ecosystem for sustained industrial growth.

In essence, the program serves as a bridge between industry stakeholders and potential solution providers. It creates a collaborative platform where challenges are not only identified but actively resolved through the collective efforts of engaged professionals. By addressing supply chain gaps and enhancing the local business landscape, the Silver Link program contributes to the resilience and competitiveness of Northeastern Nevada industries.

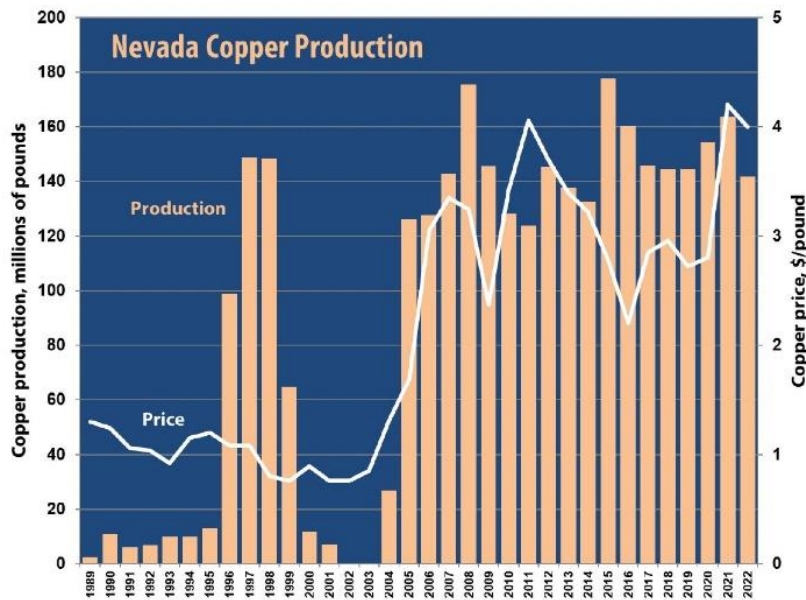
In summary, the Silver Link program leverages industry expertise to identify supply chain gaps, utilizes RFPs to solicit solutions, and actively engages with participating companies to fill these gaps. The ultimate goal is to fortify the local business environment, ensuring that Northeastern Nevada industries thrive with the necessary resources, ultimately enhancing productivity and efficiency.

II. PROBLEM OR IDENTIFIED GAP

Through various means of data collection tools and feedback, industry leaders have determined that there is a tremendous need for *Copper Concentrate* processing in Northeastern Nevada.

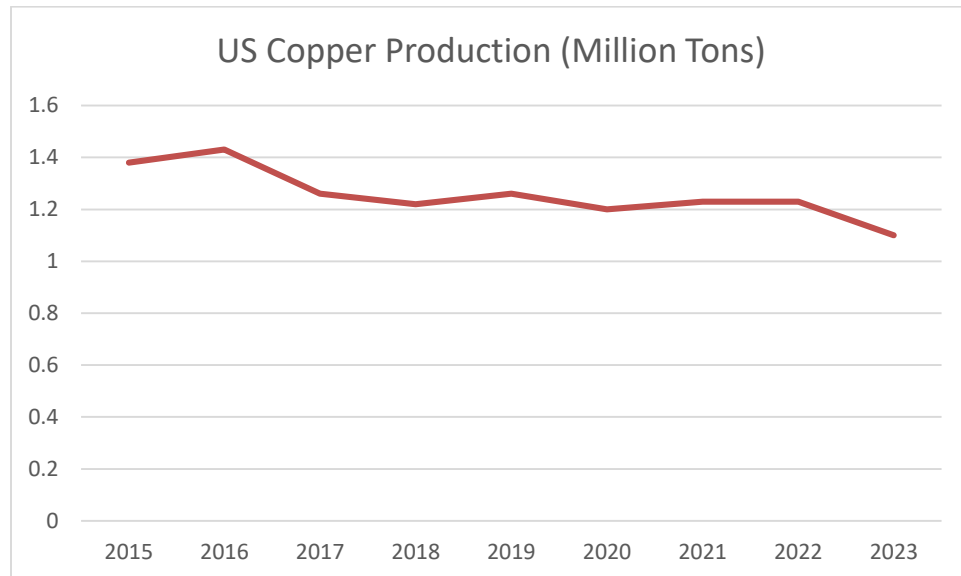
According to [The Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Report 57, “Opportunities for Precious Metals Toll Processing and Copper Concentrate Processing in Nevada,”](#) there are three copper smelters in the U.S.: Miami, Arizona operated by Freeport McMoran; Hayden, Arizona operated by Asarco; and Magna, Utah operated by Kennecott Rio Tinto. In addition, Freeport operates a concentrate leach plant at Morenci, Arizona, where copper concentrates are pressure leached in autoclaves to produce cathode copper. The three smelter operators also operate electrolytic refineries: Kennecott also at Magna, Utah; Asarco at Amarillo, Texas; and Freeport at El Paso, Texas. **Combined capacity of these smelters is estimated to be approximately 7,000 tons per day of concentrate. Domestic mine production exceeded smelter and concentrate leach capacity as an estimated 235,000 metric tonnes of copper in concentrate were exported in 2017, equivalent to an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 wet tons of concentrate per day.**

The report concluded that, “The volume of existing copper concentrate production in Nevada [as of 2018] is probably not adequate to support a concentrate processing facility. However, a case could be made for establishing a concentrate processing facility in Nevada, if production from other western states that is now exported and the potential production from undeveloped resources in Nevada and other states are considered along with the current Nevada production.” Although Nevada accounts for roughly 6% of overall copper production in the United States, its proximity to leading copper producers, specifically Arizona and Utah, major west coast markets, and US shipping ports in California make Nevada the ideal location for a copper concentrate processing facility.



(Source: NBMG “The Nevada Mineral Industry 2022”)

Nevada's copper production has remained relatively stable over the past five years, with a minor decline from 2021 to 2022, primarily due to a geotechnical issue that halted operations at Nevada Copper's Pumpkin Hollow project. Production resumed in late 2023, with 446 metric tons of concentrate shipped in October of that year.



Similarly, copper production in the United States has remained steady, though a decline was observed between 2022 and 2023. This downturn was mainly due to various maintenance issues at several copper-producing mines in the Western United States, including Bingham Canyon in Utah, as well as sites in Arizona and New Mexico.¹

Consequently, the production values reported in the “*Opportunities for Precious Metals Toll Processing and Copper Concentrate Processing in Nevada*” are comparable to or expected to surpass those from 2018, indicating that these findings remain as relevant today as they were six years ago.

III. POTENTIAL OR SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

- Establish a state-of-the-art copper concentrate processing facility in Northeastern Nevada, designed to process copper resources from both Nevada and the Western United States.
- Forge partnerships with Nevada copper producers to facilitate the research, development, and implementation of innovative, efficient, and environmentally friendly copper processing facilities within the state.
- Collaborate with stakeholders in Nevada and neighboring states to identify the optimal strategies for domestic extraction, processing, and manufacturing of copper resources.

¹ U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries, January 2024

IV. PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

A. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A company's response should include as much detail as possible relevant to the problem that has been identified. This should include but is not limited to:

- Company Name
- Contact Information
- Company Information & History
- Company or Project Leadership
- Capacity to address identified problem
- Plan of action associated with identified problem
- Commitment to providing local service
- Estimated cost savings to industry
- Estimated reduction in lead times
- Timelines or milestones associated with providing service
- Any other relevant information that pertains to identified problem

B. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Once all response elements have been compiled, it is encouraged that companies email a digital packet to the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority at ADMIN@NNRDA.COM. Subject title should be similar to the following: "SILVER LINK RFP RESPONSE - COPPER CONCENTRATE PROCESSING [COMPANY NAME]"

For those wishing to submit a paper copy of their submission, please address to:
Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority
1500 College Parkway
McMullen Hall #103
Elko, NV 89801

V. REVIEW & RESULT PROCESS

Upon submission, NNRDA staff will review your response to ensure a viable solution has been presented. The submission will then be forwarded to relevant industry professionals for review and consideration. Supply chain & procurement professionals will have between 2-4 weeks to determine whether or not they would like to speak with the corresponding companies. NNRDA staff will reach out to those companies whose proposed solution generates enough interest to warrant a meeting with reviewing operators. In the case that all industry professionals decide to pass on the proposed solution, submitting companies will be informed in writing and via email.

As mentioned above, RFP's will remain posted until industry leaders indicated that this gap has been filled by a participating company.