

# GLENCORE

Amanda Romero and Mauricio Lazala  
Business & Human Rights Resource Centre  
1-3 Charlotte Street, 3rd floor  
London W1T 1RD  
United Kingdom

*Via email to Amanda Romero (Amanda.Romero.romero@business-humanrights.org) and  
Mauricio Lazala (lazala@business-humanrights.org)*

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Dear Ms Romero and Mr Lazala,

Thank you for providing Glencore with the opportunity to respond to allegations of mining spills at Antamina.

The independently operated Antamina mine is one of the largest large copper and zinc mines in the world and is located in the Ancash region of the Andes mountain range, 270 kilometres north of Lima. Antamina mine is jointly owned by Glencore (33.75% interest), BHP (33.75%), Teck (22.5%) and Mitsubishi Corporation (10%).

The media article referenced by the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC), refers to a request made by the Congresswoman, Maria Elena Foronda, to the Ministry of Energy and Mines to protect the watersheds of the Nepeña, Casma and Santa rivers, due allegations of negative environmental impacts from small and medium-sized mining activities in the Ancash region.

The Antamina mine is not located in the Nepeña, Casma and Santa water basins. Its operations are in the province of Huari, San Marcos District in the Ancash region, a considerable distance from these basins.

In addition, Antamina is not considered a small or medium-sized mining operation. It has high technical, safety, environmental and social standards, which it is currently mapping against the principles of the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM).

The article was not specific about the “mining spillages” it referenced; as such, it is difficult for us to provide a detailed response. However, we are aware of two such spillages by Antamina, on which we can provide information.

In July 2012, a copper concentrate leakage affected the community of community of the Santa Rosa (Cajacay) Province of the Bolognesi-Ancash. The leakage occurred due to a pipeline elbow failure inside a valve station. This spillage took place within a containment pond and only 7% of the concentrate – around 3m<sup>3</sup>, or the equivalent of the carrying capacity of a small pick-up truck – leaked beyond the valve station. Antamina immediately responded to the incident and worked with the affected community, Santa Rosa, and local authorities to remedy the impacts.

## **Glencore plc**

Baarerstattstrasse 3, P.O. Box, CH-6341 Baar, Switzerland  
T +41 41 709 20 00 F +41 41 709 30 00 [www.glencore.com](http://www.glencore.com)  
Registered in Jersey with number 107710

Registered address: Queensway House, Hilgrove Street, St Helier, Jersey JE1 1ES

Following the spillage, Santa Rosa's health facilities treated around 210 inhabitants of the Santa Rosa community for health concerns; all were discharged. Antamina established and financed a local health commission with participants from the local authorities, Santa Rosa community, the church, and the Ministry of Health. The health commission held meetings with the community, CENSOPAS, Ministry of Health, Medical College of Peru, OEFA, OSINERGMIN, PCM, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Energy and Mines and various congressmen. Antamina established medical teams to address any further health concerns.

Following the incident, the regional authorities undertook a number of environmental and health assessments and confirmed that Antamina had responded appropriately and that there were no remaining impacts. The leak did not affect any water body.

At the time, the incident was widely reported and Antamina provided a full response (in Spanish) on its website: <https://www.antamina.com/noticias/santa-rosa-de-cajacay>.

In April 2017, the region experienced heavy rains due to *Fenomeno del Niño Costero* and a resulting mudslide caused a workman, who was undertaking road maintenance works, to damage Antamina's pipeline (at Km44 of the Pativilca-Huaraz access road). Provías, an agency that is part of the Ministry of Transportation and Communication, employed the worker. The worker was using explosives to remove rock.

The accident caused a leakage of copper concentrate. Antamina's automated, real-time monitoring system detected the leak and activated the operation's emergency response procedures. This response led to stoppage of the pumping of copper concentrate and the automatic closure of the appropriate valves.

Antamina coordinated its response with the regional authorities and initiated a communication process with local communities. As before, health and environmental assessments undertaken by the relevant authorities confirmed the effectiveness of the emergency response actions and no water body was impacted or reached by the spilled copper concentrate.

At the time, Antamina provided comprehensive statements on its website:

- <https://www.antamina.com/noticias/comunicado-trabajos-provias-afectan-mineroducto/>
- <https://www.antamina.com/noticias/comenzaron-labores-limpieza-parcelas-afectadas-cerca-incidente-mineroducto/>

The Peruvian authorities regularly assessed Antamina's operations on health and safety matters. In addition, it has established a participatory environmental monitoring programme with its local authorities.

We appreciate the ongoing engagement that Glencore has with the BHRRC and are happy to provide more information if required.

Kind regards,

Anna Krutikov  
Group Head of Sustainability