



The Magma Copper Company built the narrow gauge Magma Arizona Railroad in 1915 to connect copper mines at Superior, Arizona, to the Southern Pacific (originally Phoenix & Eastern) Railroad at a junction called Magma. The Magma Arizona was converted to standard gauge in 1923. The Magma Arizona was the last industrial short line railroad in the U.S. to use steam power. The Australian mining giant Broken Hill Proprietary Company purchased the Magma Copper Company in 1996 and suspended rail operations in 1997. The railroad has since changed hands and is currently owned by Resolution Copper, a subsidiary of London-based Rio Tinto Group, which has indicated that the railroad may be re-opened if and when mining resumes.

About 2 miles from the end of track at Superior, the rails are covered by sand in a dry wash.



Another view of sand-covered tracks and a plant along the line. These tracks were last used in 1997.