Richard Goshen Geologist/Project Manager

Coronado National Forest

Comments for the Arizona Minerals Inc. Hermosa Taylor Deposit Drilling Project

We oppose the proposed Arizona Minerals Inc. (AMI) Hermosa Taylor Deposit Drilling Project. We believe that the project would result in significant impacts to the environment. Due to the numerous connected actions and cumulative impacts of other events happening in the project area, the Forest Service needs to complete an Environmental Impact Statement for this project.

The documentation provided for this project mentions numerous supporting works to be on AMI’s adjacent private land. The project on Forest Service Land could not be done without this support work, hence a connected action.

 For example:

1- During the course of the Project, equipment, materials, and personnel will be initially directed to a staging area located on private land owned by AMI approximately 1mile southwest of the intersection of Harshaw Road and FR4686.

2- Stockpiling of cut material.

3- Brush and trees removed will also be stored on private land.

4- Water needed for use in drilling the exploration drill holes will be obtained from an existing water well located on AMI’s private land (Figure3). Water will be stored in existing distribution tanks on AMI’s private land and supplied by gravity to the exploration drill sites via 2-inch-diameter, high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe that will be laid along AMI private lands, FR5521, and temporary low-standard access roads (Figure3).

5- Diesel fuel will continue to be supplied by tanker truck to a contractor-furnished storage tank located at the staging area on AMI-owned property;

6- As a priority, and to the extent that it is practicable to do so, all heavy equipment and support vehicles will be fueled at the staging area on AMI property.

All above examples have been taken from Plan of Operation text.

The supporting work on private AMI land are connected actions and therefore should be considered as related environmental impact and need to be analyzed in the Environmental Assessment along with the activities on the Forest land.

Thank you for considering our comments,

Cliff & Linda Hirsch