October 10, 2016

Coronado National Forest

Attn:  Minerals & Geology Staff

Re:  Hermosa-Taylor

300 W. Congress St. 6th Floor

Tucson, AZ 85701

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to address the proposed Plan of Operations for the Hermosa-Taylor Deposit Drilling Project submitted by Arizona Minerals, Inc.
We have been full-time residents of Patagonia since 2009.  We own land and a house approximately one mile east of town.  Our Arizona Department of Water Resources Well Registration Number is 55-544523.  This is our sole source of water.  We are concerned that this drilling project along with the several other proposed local drilling/mining projects will impact the quality and quantity of our water.  We are not unique.  The Patagonia municipal watershed as well as numerous personal wells could be threatened by these projects.  Can the Coronado National Forest Service assure all town residents and ourselves that there will be no impact on our water?

During our spare time, we enjoy hiking and driving in our nearby mountains, specifically the Patagonia Mountains, as do many local residents and visitors.  we are concerned that this drilling project along with the several other proposed local drilling/mining/road building projects will impact the endangered and non-endangered species of birds and wildlife in these mountains.  How can 24/7 drilling and lighting not disturb wildlife as well as people living in this area?  Can the Coronado National Forest Service assure all local residents (including me) and visitors to the Patagonia area that wildlife will not be disturbed, driven away or killed during this project?  In addition, the specific area of drilling and road building will be forever changed.  No amount of remediation can bring it back.  Can the Forest Service assure that anyone can enjoy the forest (as a forest) ever again?

In conclusion, we strongly request the Coronado National Forest Hermosa-Taylor project be more thoroughly analyzed by virtue of a complete Environmental Impact Statement.

Jerrilyn Sober

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USDA/Forest Service Slogan:  Caring for the Land and Serving People