

October 10, 2016

Coronado National Forest
Attn: Minerals & Geology Staff
Re: Hermosa-Taylor
300 W. Congress Street, 6th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Staff:

Regarding the proposed drilling project at the above-mentioned site on public land in the Coronado National Forest, a thorough investigation of all potential impacts is essential to preserve the priceless treasures we have here. As part of our local watershed, the area deserves careful and exhaustive scrutiny, ensuring that both the quality and quantity of our municipal water supply is protected. What will be the cumulative effects on our surface water, groundwater, and aquifers? What is AMI's track record for dealing with waste water? Is the required bond for reclaiming the site after the drilling is complete sufficient for adequate environmental clean-up and remediation? These questions need to be addressed with an unwavering commitment to protect and preserve our precious and limited resources.

The unique biodiversity of this area sustains its human residents, the local flora and fauna, and our growing eco-tourism industry. The impact of the proposed project on residents, wildlife, vegetation, recreation, and tourism should be extensively analyzed. At risk are critical wildlife movement corridors, dark skies, visual resources, and scenic values—all demand careful consideration. The increase in traffic, noise, and dust is a major concern—Harshaw Road is already a loud and busy thoroughfare transporting drillers to and from their work sites. Negative effects on over 100 federally threatened, endangered, and sensitive species in the local area are also at stake. In short, the cumulative impacts of this new proposal and other local mining operations within Patagonia's municipal watershed must be earnestly and diligently analyzed—*the thorough analysis of an Environmental Impact Statement is unquestionably necessary.*

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Allison H. Morse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Allison" being more prominent than the last name "Morse".

Allison H. Morse
737 Red Rock Avenue
Patagonia, AZ 85624