South32 in the Press

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**Summary**

South32 is a mining company with worldwide operations which has proposed building a mine in the Patagonia Mountains in Santa Cruz County, AZ. Community members have expressed concern over the company’s presence in their community, given their history in different communities throughout Australia, Colombia, and South Africa. Among the topics that have been covered in the press related to the company’s mining operations are: 1) air pollution concerns; 2) worker strikes; 3) water contamination; 4) a permit violation due to improper use of water; 5) health concerns in community members related to manganese dust exposure; 6) concern of nickel presence in the blood and urine of community members living near a mine; 7) a coal mine lung disease claim against the company; 8) blasting at mines damaging nearby homes; and 9) employee safety concerns given fatalities that have occurred during South32 mining operations. South32 has stated its willingness to discuss the stories found in the media to explain both sides of these stories.

**Introduction**

In August 2018, Arizona Minerals Inc., as part of South32, purchased Hermosa in the Patagonia Mountains in Santa Cruz County, AZ, a site mined since 1875 (Santa Cruz County, 2022). South32 (2024a) has described the Hermosa Project as having the potential to become a globally significant producer of metals critical to a low-carbon future. The project is 100% owned by South32 (South32, 2022a) and has been confirmed as the first mining project to qualify for the Title 42 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41) process by the United States Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (South32, 2023b). Since it is covered by FAST-41, the Permitting Council facilitates coordinated and transparent Federal environmental review and permitting of the project by making permitting timetables available online (Federal Infrastructure Permitting Dashboard, 2022). The South32 Hermosa Critical Mineral Project permitting timetable from the Permitting Council can be found [here](https://www.permits.performance.gov/permitting-project/fast-41-covered-projects/south32-hermosa-critical-minerals-project) (Federal Infrastructure Permitting Dashboard, 2023). The timetable includes original and current target dates for items such as a Section 106 Review, an Environmental Impact Statement, a Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and an Endangered Species Act Consultation.

The company, South32, itself was created in May 2015 after its demerger from BHP Billiton Limited (BHP, 2015). For reference, BHP Billiton was formed in 2001 from a merger between Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP) and Billiton, mining companies founded in the mid-1800s (BHP, n.d.). In November 2018, BHP Billiton Limited and BHP Billiton Plc, which operate under a dual listing, changed their names to BHP Group Limited and BHP Group Plc (both referred to as BHP Group in this report), respectively (BHP, 2018). Both South32 and BHP Group operate globally and independently, with some past members of BHP Group forming part of South32’s board and lead team (e.g., Chair and Independent Non-Executive Director, Karen Woods, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Graham Kerr) (South32, 2024b).

Despite South32 stating there is a potential for the Clark Deposit in Hermosa to produce manganese for the North American electric vehicle supply and zinc and silver co-products (South32, 2024a), there is concern regarding the company’s ability to fulfill their promises to the community. Since its creation in 2015, South32 has been involved in media controversies regarding air pollution, worker strikes, water contamination concerns, a fine for operating without a permit, public health concerns regarding exposure to manganese, nickel, and coal mining byproducts in nearby communities, lawsuits, and more. Of note, BHP Group has also been involved in lawsuits and media controversies across the world, thus raising community members’ concerns regarding the presence or involvement of the companies in their community.

**South32 In Australia**

*Air Pollution*

The Climate Council (2023) has published a report highlighting Australia’s 12 largest fossil fuel polluting companies between 2016 and 2021. In it, the Climate Council discusses how South32 is the tenth most polluting fossil fuel company in Australia out of 215 companies. South32 contributed 10.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) from 2016 to 2021, equivalent to the pollution levels of more than 536,900 Australians in one year (Climate Council, 2023). Most recently, Simon Nicholas (2023) from the Institute of Energy Economic and Financial Analysis reported that South32 is expected to have growing investor pressure due to their Scope 3 greenhouse gas (GHS) emissions, which totaled 65.6 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent in FY2023 (South32, 2023c). Scope 1 and 2 emissions occur from company operations, while Scope 3 emissions occur from customers' and suppliers’ use of a company’s product (Nicholas, 2023). For FY2023, South32’s Scope 1 and 2 emissions totaled 21 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent (South32, 2023b). In their Climate Change Action Plan report, South32 (2022b) stated that they are committed to following the objectives of the Paris Agreement and have set long-term goals to achieve net zero operational and Scope 3 GHG emissions by 2050.

*Worker Strike*

In August 2023, South32’s Appin coal mine supervisors went on strike after failing to reach an agreement with management over leave provisions and remuneration (Chatterjee & Burton, 2023). According to the Collieries’ Staff and Officials Association, workers argued for “having a reasonable work-life balance” like leaves and certainty in weekend work (Chatterjee & Burton, 2023). After meeting with the workers and refusing to accept their deal, the workers extended their strike until early September (Reuters, 2023; Chatterjee & Burton, 2023). Information about the outcome of this strike is limited via online sources.

*Water Contamination Concerns and Company Fines*

In August 2020, protestors in laboratory suits delivered jars with polluted water taken from the Brandy and Water Creek in Figtree to the New South Wales Environment Protection Authority (NSW EPA) (McLaren, 2020). The black sludge-looking water was attributed to heavy rainfall, which caused a structural issue at South32’s Dendrobium Mine at Mount Kembla, causing water with coal particles to be released into a nearby creek (McLaren, 2020). In response, the NSW EPA issued a AU$15,000 fine to South32 for non-compliance with their environmental protection license (Fernandez, 2021). South32 was also required to hire an independent expert to monitor the environmental impacts of the spill, which, according to the NSW EPA’s acting director, showed a small reduction in aquatic animals near the mine immediately after the spill (Fernandez, 2021). In their report, the consultants hired by South32 indicated that the monitoring found no long-term impacts associated with the event. Still, community members expressed frustration over the fine imposed by the NSW EPA since they believed it should have been higher (Fernandez, 2021).

In August 2022, the company abandoned an investment that would have extended the life of the Dendrobium mine at Mount Kembla, given that the expected returns of the $700 million US dollar up-front capital expenditure would not be sufficient to support the investment (South32, 2022c). The project had been controversial among community members after the New South Wales government overturned a 2021 decision from the Independent Planning Commission, which rejected the project because it could cause irreversible damage to the Sydney and Illawarra drinking water catchment area (Cox, 2022). The community celebrated the company’s decision to leave the project, as it “was never in the public interest,” as stated by the secretary of the Illawarra, Deidre Stuart (as cited in Cox, 2022).

The following year, in 2023, the Natural Resources Access Regulator fined South32 nearly AU$2.9 million after an investigation revealed that the company drained up to five megalitres daily from the Sydney water catchment from 2018 to 2023 (Fernandez, 2023). Illawara Coal Holdings, the South32 subsidiary responsible for the work at the mine, confirmed they did not have a license to extract surface water at the Dendrobium mine at Mount Kembla (Sharma, 2023). As a result, surface water that could have been used to service Sydney’s drinking water needs was taken by the mining company (Fernandez, 2023). The agreement required the company to improve surface water management with new technologies and to report the results annually (Fernandez, 2023). These separate incidents at the same location highlight environmental health and water issues in the community attributed to South32’s operations. Other complaints from as early as January 2020 associated with dendrobium operations can be found on South32’s (2023a) Complaints Report [here](https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/operations/illawarra/dendrobium/community-documents/community-complaints/dendrobium-community-complaints-report---october-2023.pdf).

*Health Concerns of Manganese Dust Exposure*

For people living in the Indigenous community of Angurugu in the Groote Eylandt, near South32’s Gemco manganese mine, dust exposure from the mine is a significant concern. In 2021, the Anindilyakwa Land Council said it was working with South32 to reduce dust exposures coming from the mine, given that tests from researchers at the University of Queensland showed “concerning” levels of manganese on the hair and nails of children and adults in the community (Bardon, 2021). Although the researchers found presence of manganese in community members’ hair and nails, they found no indication that the dust had an impact on cognitive development (Bardon, 2021). At this time, this research is not published or publicly released in any way. For this reason, it is unclear what concentrations of manganese were measured in the hair and nails of children and adults in the community. In early 2023, community members’ concerns persisted, with members of Groote Eylandt worrying about the dust particles that cover their houses and cars and get in their fingernails and hair, which they fear may be affecting their health (Bardon, 2023). After a community member expressed concern over PM2.5 dust exposures, South32 responded by stating that they had only limited PM2.5 and PM10 dust exceedances from their operations until July 2022 and none since then (Bardon, 2023).

As of January 2024, community members continue to express concern over the fine black dust that coats their roads and cars. However, the newly appointed Northern Territory Chief Minister Eva Lawler said she would leave it up to the Health Minister to decide on any action (Bardon, 2024). Chief Minister Eva Lawler replaced Natasha Fyles in December 2023, who resigned from the positions of Chief Minister and Health Minister following mounting pressure for failing to disclose owning stock market shares in South32 (Hislop & Morgan, 2023). Of note, earlier in 2023, Fyles said the government would not investigate air pollution levels or health impacts, indicating that proper monitoring was already in place (Hislop & Morgan, 2023). Community member Jeff Aschmann wants the Northern Territory government to do a health assessment to evaluate the health and well-being of the Aboriginal people on Groote Eylandt (Bardon, 2024). We are unaware of any further South32 responses to the concerns brought up by community members in Groote Eylandt. This issue may represent an environmental justice concern.

*Company Sues Over Workers Compensation Claim*

In early 2023, South32 launched a claim against Cleanaway, a waste management company, to pay for damages and costs associated with a 2018 lawsuit regarding a workers’ compensation claim (Libatique, 2023). The lawsuit is regarding a 2017 incident at South32’s Worsley Australia refinery involving a hose rupture that carried caustic liquid and injured a worker. The two-year worker’s compensation claim cost the company over AU$1 million, which they argue was Cleanaway's responsibility to pay, but they did not have workers’ compensation insurance (Libatique, 2023). We are unaware of any developments in the case at this time.

**South32 in Colombia**

*Concerns of Nickel Presence in Blood and Urine*

Perhaps one of South32’s locations with the most media attention is its Cerro Matoso nickel mine, which is located in Colombia and spans about 0.33 square miles in the middle of a land reserve that belongs to the Zenú de l’Alto San Jorge Indigenous peoples (Delpuech, 2023). In 2013, the governor and tribal chief of the Indigenous community and the president of the Council of Afro-Colombian Communities of San José de Uré filed a case in Colombia’s Constitutional Court against Cerro Matoso and two national mining agencies for Environmental and Health Damage (Delpuech, 2023; Radio Francia Internacional, 2023). The Court took the case, which prompted the 2016 investigation from the Institute of Legal Medicine and Sciences, which tested for nickel presence in the blood and urine of about 1,150 people. For reference, when the Court took the case, the mine had been owned by BHP Billiton since 1980 but was then sold to South32 in 2015, the same year as the company’s demerger (Delpuech, 2023). The Ministry of Health confirmed that the results indicated that nickel concentrations in the urine and blood of people living near the mine were above the benchmark set in international studies (Delpuech, 2023). Legal documents regarding the lawsuit indicate that an average of 10.53 micrograms of nickel/L blood was found in people who were sampled.

In March 2018, the Court issued a judgment against Cerro Matoso, indicating that South32 must compensate and provide healthcare services to the affected community members and renew their environmental license (Reuters, 2018; Delpuech, 2023). The following month, South32 announced they would appeal the ruling (Leotaud, 2018). South32 and its lawyers, which included the former president of Colombia’s Constitutional Court, Eduardo Cifuentes Muñoz, appealed the case, citing a 2016 report generated by a toxicologist who contested the findings from the Institute of Legal Medicine and Sciences (Delpuech, 2023). In a 2023 response to a journalist’s questions, a Cerro Matoso spokesperson stated that the report was created by Dr. Julie E. Goodman, who found methodological limitations with the findings of the Institute of Legal Medicine and Sciences, which the institute also confirmed (Cerro Matoso S. A., 2023). This 2023 response, written in Spanish, can be found [here](https://cdn.corprensa.com/la-prensa/uploads/2023/04/18/Solicitud%20El%20Espectador%20-Cerro%20Matoso.pdf).

In September 2018, the Court annulled most proceedings against Cerro Matoso, saving the company from paying US$400 million in compensation for the alleged damages caused by waste emissions from the mine (Jamasmie, 2018; Delpuech, 2023). However, the Court still required the mine to reapply for its environmental license (Jamasmie, 2018). The official judgment (T-733/17) set by Colombia’s Constitutional Court, written in Spanish, can be found [here](https://www.corteconstitucional.gov.co/relatoria/2017/t-733-17.htm).

*Health Concerns Regarding Possible Air Pollution & Job Opportunity Protest*

Community members near the Cerro Matoso mine have stated that the mine is responsible for destroying fauna, flora, and their health (McGuinn et al., 2023). In an interview, Israel Aguilar, a community member who lives near the mine, stated that their water, trees, and forest are contaminated and that their birds and medicinal plants have disappeared (McGuinn et al., 2023). About a decade ago, the Zenú community protested and blocked access to the mine, influencing South32 to compensate the community by building or renovating about 1,200 homes (McGuinn et al., 2023). Yolanda, a community member, says that the company cheated them out of their health in return for homes that are quickly falling apart and whose roof material makes the heat inside the home unbearable (McGuinn et al., 2023).

In November 2021, Rafael Moreno, a Colombian journalist, published images showing pink smoke coming from Cerro Matoso’s smokestack (Delpuech, 2023). In response, South32 said the images were backdated. Moreno responded by publishing a video in which he stated the date during the video while recording a pink cloud, which he attributed as the origin of the communities’ health issues (Delpuech, 2023). Later videos from that same year, and later in April 2022, also highlighted pink smoke coming from the mine’s smokestack. The Colombian Ministry of the Environment stated that non-controlled emissions could be seen coming from the mine as early as 2017 (Delpuech, 2023). However, Cerro Matoso denied all accusations of air pollution, stating that none of their sampling air measurements have reached the annual average guideline concentrations from the World Health Organization (Delpuech, 2023). In late 2023, two communities near the Cerro Matoso mine blocked the access roads to the mine, protesting for mining work opportunities (Attwood & Jaramillo, 2023). In response, South32 decreased operations to only essential activities and said the company could not give a single community an advantage over work opportunities (Attwood & Jaramillo, 2023). Information about the current state of these incidents is limited online.

*Unpaid Royalties Claim*

In February 2020, Colombia launched an investigation against Cerro Matoso for unpaid royalties to the country from 1982-2012, totaling 619 billion Colombian pesos (~US$181.5 million) from iron and nickel production at the mine (Reuters, 2020a). As part of their mining presence in the country, Cerro Matoso is responsible for paying royalties to Colombia. According to the findings, South32’s Cerro Matoso mine applied incorrect discounts and deductions, to which South32 said in an email to Reuters that this attempt was invalid since it concerns concession contracts finalized in 2012 (Reuters, 2020a). A month after Colombia launched the investigation, South32 filed a request for arbitration at the World Bank’s International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (Reuters, 2020b). Information about the current state of this claim is limited online, and legal documents of the claim could not be found by WEST Environmental Justice Center staff.

**South32 in South Africa**

*Health Concerns of Manganese Dust Exposure*

Like in Australia, exposure to manganese dust from South32’s mining operations is also of concern in South Africa. In a news article for The Washington Post, Chason & Godfrey (2023) highlight how the increased demand for metals used in electric vehicle batteries, such as manganese, has left past mine workers in South Africa to struggle with health effects (e.g., memory loss), which they believe are associated with manganese dust exposure. In particular, Chason & Godfrey (2023) highlight Dirk Jooste’s story, a contractor who worked at the Mamatwan manganese mine blowing dust out of broken air conditioners. After being questioned if he was hungover by a supervisor, Jooste visited a clinic, then owned by BHP Billiton and now by South32, and was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. When treatment for Parkinson’s did not work, Jooste visited a local occupational health physician who diagnosed him with manganism, a neurological condition that shows motor symptoms similar to Parkinson’s disease (Harischandra et al., 2019). Although South32 declined to comment on individual cases and said they take proactive steps to reduce risk through controls (Chason & Godfrey, 2023), community members' concerns associated with manganese dust exposure remain in South Africa.

*Exit from Coal Mining and Blasting Concerns*

In 2019, the South African government proposed adding 1,500 megawatts of new coal generation in the country using cleaner methods using high-efficiency, low-emission (HELE) generation technology, as highlighted in the 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy Republic of South Africa (2019). Following the proposition, the nonprofit group Centre for Environmental Rights published a report by Dr. Ranajit Sahu (2019), stating that clean coal, despite using HELE technologies, is not achievable since technologies do not always work and plant operations also generate wastewater. In a different report from that same year, the Centre for Environmental Rights (2019) stated that South32’s Khutala Colliery mining operation was among those involved in water pollution activities. More information about this claim is limited online.

Around the same time, in November 2019, Seriti Resources announced an acquisition agreement with South32 in which South32 was to sell its South Africa Energy Coal business (Seriti, 2019). The deal would require South32 to pay Seriti Resources an upfront sum of $6.9 million while still being entitled to receive deferred payments from Seriti based on future cashflows until March 2024 (Reuters, 2021; Mining Technology, 2021). In 2021, South32 agreed to pay $250 million to Seriti Resources to complete the sale of its South Africa Energy Coal business, allowing South32 to reshape its business by exiting the thermal coal sector (Reuters, 2021; Mining Technology, 2021). In April 2021, South32 (2021a) published an update letter stating that the new deal would remove the deferred consideration mechanism, provide $50 million to a Seriti subsidiary to fund costs to restructure mines losing money, and $200 million towards rehabilitation activities at the South Africa Energy Coal operations. A month later, South32 (2021b) said the transaction was expected to be complete by June 2021, allowing the company to reshape its portfolio towards base metals for a low-carbon future and to advance development options in North America to invest in greenfield exploration. Seriti (2021) confirmed the acquisition was finalized on June 1, 2021, and renamed the entity as Seriti Power. However, before the acquisition was finalized, community members living near South32’s coal operations reported damages to their homes and health, which they attributed to South32’s reckless blasting (Macua Team, 2020). It is unclear from online sources if these community members’ concerns led to any company actions to protect community members’ health or property.

*Company Sued Over Coal Mine Lung Disease*

In August 2023, human rights lawyer Richard Spoors filed a class action lawsuit against South32, BHP Billiton Plc, and Seriti Power, seeking legal remedies for sick miners and for the families of miners who have passed due to coal mine dust lung disease in the forms of pneumoconiosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (Motley Rice LLC, 2023; Maleke, 2023). In the lawsuit, it is stated that pneumoconiosis and COPD are preventable diseases, and despite knowing the risks to coal miners, the coal mining industry companies failed to provide workers with proper training, equipment, and safe working conditions (as cited in Motley Rice LLC, 2023). The lawsuit comes after the Southern African Catholic Bishop’s Conference started working with Spoors after 17 current and former mine workers came to the catholic church after contracting the diseases (Cossins-Smith, 2023). Given how recent this lawsuit is, more information is not currently known.

**Safety Risks on the Job**

South32 has also received media attention in different parts of Africa due to employees’ safety on the job. On September 29, 2016, South32’s Ricus Grimbeek said during an industry event in Perth, Australia, that safety was the one area where the organization did not perform well (East, 2016a). During the speech, Grimbeek also said, “We really struggled on the safety side. We had four fatalities in Africa in the last financial year and it’s something that sits so badly with me as a person and … we are absolutely committed to turn that around. I actually want to run a business where I can guarantee people’s safety,” (as cited in East, 2016a). Later that year, John Campbell, a representative from the Australian Shareholders’ Association, said the fatalities during the past financial year marked an “unsatisfactory level of safety” (as cited in East, 2016b). SBSNews (2016) reported that South32’s chief executive, Graham Kerr, earned $4.1 million in 2015-2016 ($1.77 million from a fixed salary and $1.96 million in short-term incentives) but could have earned upwards of $3.2 million in short-term incentives if it were not for the fatal workplace accidents in the financial year.

In August 2017, South32 (2017) announced that Grimbeek, the Chief Technology Officer and former Chief Operating Officer for the Australia Region, would leave the company to pursue other interests. Despite acknowledging the company's need to work on workplace safety, employees have continued to lose their lives while working in South32 operations. On April 12, 2018, an employee at the Metalloys Manganese Smelter in South Africa was fatally injured while working at the Oxygen Brown Converter (South32, 2018). On November 30, 2021, South32 (2021c) announced that a contractor with Elektra Mining was fatally injured while working at the Wessels mine in Hotazel, South Africa. On November 7, 2022, two employees were fatally injured, and a contractor was injured and transferred to receive treatment after all were involved in an incident at the Mozal aluminum smelter in Mozambique (South32, 2022d; Iannucci, 2022).

**BHP Group in the Media**

*Before the Demerger of South32*

Before the South32 demerger from BHP Group, BHP Group had already experienced media attention regarding topics like those that South32 has faced. For example, in 2006, Richard Spoors, a lawyer who specializes in occupational health and the mining sector, demanded compensation for six ill former workers and workforce screening from the then-named BHP Billiton company (Townsend & Hollingsworth, 2006). Spoors alleged that workers who suffered from manganese poisoning were not compensated by BHP Billiton and were instead left to claim benefits from the state-backed fund Workmen’s Compensation Scheme (Townsend & Hollingsworth, 2006). Information about the outcome of this incident is limited online.

On May 20, 2015, the US Securities and Exchange Commission charged BHP Billiton for violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act when it sponsored the attendance of foreign government officials, who were connected to pending contract negotiations or regulatory dealings, to the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics (US Securities and Exchange Commission, 2015). In response, BHP Billiton paid a $25 million penalty to settle the charges.

*After the demerger of South32*

On February 24, 2026, BHP Billiton Limited, BHP Billiton PLC, and other BHP officials were sued in the US by investors who accused the mining company of making false and misleading claims over the company’s safety, risk management, and monitoring protocols leading up a dam burst in Minas Gerais, Brazil on November 5, 2015 (Stempel, 2016). Legal documents regarding the lawsuit can be found [here](https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/4356649/in-re-bhp-billiton-limited-securities-litigation/). This dam burst is considered Brazil’s worst industrial accident and resulted in millions of tons of toxic waste being sent to the surrounding area, killing 19 people and destroying two nearby villages (BBC News, 2021). Following the disaster, Samarco, which is owned by Vale and BHP Billiton, paid nearly $7 billion in compensation to affected families and set up the Foundation Renova to help victims of the disaster rebuild their lives (BBC News, 2021). Of note, BHP Billiton was also sued in Australia (BBC News, 2018), and in the United Kingdom (Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, 2018) for reasons related to the dam burst.

In 2023, a preliminary review revealed that BHP Group had incorrectly taken an average of six leave days over a 13-year period from about 28,500 current and former employees, amounting to about $US 280 million (Delaney, 2023). BHP Australia president, Geraldine Slattery, said the company was sorry for the errors and that they were working to rectify and remediate the issues (as cited by Delaney, 2023).

BHP Group Limited was also included in the Climate Council’s report highlighting Australia’s 12 largest fossil fuel polluting companies between 2016 and 2021. The company, addressed as BHP Billiton in the Climate Council’s report, contributed 22 million tonnes of CO2 from 2016 to 2021, equivalent to the pollution levels of 1.1 million Australians in a year (Climate Council, 2023). BHP Group Limited has also stated interest in following the aims of the Paris Agreement and has established goals of net zero operational and Scope 3 GHG emissions by 2050 (BHP, 2023).

**Conclusion**

South32’s media presence worldwide is marked by violations, lawsuits, and community member concerns surrounding air pollution, exposure to mining byproducts (e.g., manganese dust, nickel), and employee safety and working conditions. Currently, the Indigenous community of Angurugu in Groote Eylandt (located in Northern Territory, Australia, near South32’s Gemco manganese mine) continues to advocate for a health assessment to determine the health effects of being exposed to fine black manganese dust, which is reported to cover their cars and houses. The increased demand for metals used in electric vehicle batteries, such as manganese, has also left South32 mine workers and a contractor in South Africa to struggle with health effects (e.g., memory loss, manganism) which they believe are associated with manganese dust exposure. In Colombia's Constitutional Court, South32’s Cerro Matoso mine was involved in a lawsuit centered on whether the mine was responsible for nickel exposure in community members living near the mine, which ultimately led to an investigation that found nickel in the blood and urine of children and adults but that was later found to have methodological limitations. South32’s precursor, BHP Group, has also been accused of high air pollution levels in Australia. Additionally, the company has been held responsible for violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and has been sued in the US, Australia, and the United Kingdom for reasons related to a dam burst in Mina Gerais, Brazil, which is considered Brazil’s worst industrial accident that led to 19 deaths and the destruction of two nearby villages. These examples, among others, are some that have been covered in the media worldwide related to the companies’ mining operations.

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