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First name: Elizabeth

Last name: Bernays

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hermosa-Taylor Deposit Drilling Project

From: Dr. Elizabeth Bernays

PO Box 606

Patagonia, AZ 85701

Comments on the proposed plan of operations for the above project

- 1.The water being used for this project is one of the major concerns. Although a private well is supposed to be used, 20,000 gallons per week could affect the aquifer and since it is so close to Patagonia town the effect of this depletion on the town water supply requires data and evaluation.
- 2.It is not clear how the disposal of wastewater will be dealt with. There is a serious likelihood that there will be contamination of the water supply to Patagonia. Information on details of the process, flow and hydrological geography are required.
- 3.A study is required to figure out how such intense light and noise disturbance will affect people and wildlife including five endangered species. The region is extremely close to sites of ecological importance, sensitive riparian areas, and human residences and ranches.
- 4.It is extremely important to see the impact of this activity as part of the larger pattern of drilling in the Patagonia Mountains. One such scheme is very different from the cumulative activity of several or many of them. In addition, there is the continual issue of old mines that leak, and ineffectual remediation efforts that should all be included in an overall judgment. The Forest Service is uniquely responsible for examining the big picture and reporting on the impact of all the activities combined, and not just the impact of one set of drilling activities.