

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/4/2016 11:00:00 AM

First name: ELise

Last name: Misiowski

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please see the attached documents for my comments/objections

Coronado National Forest

Attn: Minerals and Geology Staff

Re: Hermosa-Taylor

300 W Congress St, 6th Floor

Tucson AZ 85701

Arizona Mineral's Hermosa-Taylor deposit drilling project

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Elise B. Misiowski. I am a full time resident of Patagonia, Arizona. My husband and I moved to this town to retire and love the area for its rural charm, plentiful clean water, diverse wildlife, and easy access to nature for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and other outdoor recreational activities. We have made many friends here and enjoy the small town community that Patagonia offers.

It was with considerable alarm that I learned that there are renewed plans to expand mining activity in the Patagonia Mountains very close to the town of Patagonia; in specific, the Hermosa-Taylor Exploratory Drilling Project. Knowing that mining is an invasive and disruptive process, I have many concerns.

I am concerned most of all with the issue of water; both quantity and quality. Patagonia currently offers clean water from an aquifer that Patagonia residents all draw from. I am concerned that this draw on our water resources would reduce the water table to such an extent that our residential wells will go dry. Proponents of the mining activities have repeatedly claimed that this will NOT be the case. But one wonders upon what facts they draw this conclusion. How do they know? Why should we take their word for it? They have enough money to bulldoze 234 trees through OUR forest[hellip] let them pay for a water survey that will assure Patagonia residents that their wells will not run dry.

I have other fears. Our riparian ecosystem is vulnerable to the kind of proposed activities [ndash] and pollution, once present, will have a long lasting and extensive impact on the watersheds, floodplains, wetlands, riparian areas, and ultimately, our drinking water.

I am concerned about the impact of the new proposal on the wildlife and vegetation of this area. The town of Patagonia is known as a way station for many species of migrating birds. It is also a rich habitat for many species of mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. This diverse wildlife includes endangered species that are already struggling to survive.

I am concerned about the disruption that the increased mining activities would make to life in Patagonia. The plan states that the new drilling would be in operation 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, for up to 5 months. This constant industrial traffic on our rural roads and through the middle of town would be a serious endangerment to pedestrians, hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians of all ages. Our public safety will be compromised and quality of life in Patagonia will be enormously downgraded.

I am concerned that with the amount of commercial traffic that the POO proposes, the potential loss of habitat for wildlife and disruption of migratory species, and the degradation of small town quality of life will have a profound impact on the livelihood of town residents. Our town relies on tourists, hikers, campers, birdwatchers and hunters who come to Patagonia at regular intervals and have a positive effect on our socio-economic health. The loss of these visitors will cause many to lose their ability to make a living.

Given these concerns, I strongly urge you to do an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) on the Patagonia area affected by the Hermosa-Taylor project's expansion.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Elise B. Misiowski

P.O. Box 1171, Patagonia, AZ 85624

(760) 274-7191

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