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Organization: McCraren Compliance

Title: General Manager

Comments: September 26, 2016 Celeste Kinsey, District Ranger, Sierra Vista Ranger District Coronado National Forest
ATTN: Minerals & Geology. Staff 300 W. Congress St. 6th Floor Tucson, AZ 85701
Re: Arizona Minerals, Inc. (AMI), Hermosa-Taylor Deposit Drilling Project
Dear District Ranger Kinsey, I am writing on behalf of McCraren Compliance in response to your scoping notice on the small exploratory drilling project that Arizona Minerals, Inc. (AMI) has proposed in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, in the Coronado National Forest. AMI currently employs more than 160 people (either directly or through contracting work), and the proposed exploratory drilling project will increase that work force by another 25-30 contracted workers. These jobs employ both skilled and unskilled laborers in the Patagonia, Nogales, Sonoita, Sierra Vista, and Tucson areas, and the daily presence of a work force this size translates into significant spending in Santa Cruz County and an important boost to the local economy. McCraren Compliance is a contractor, and I can tell you that AMI is the type of company with which McCraren Compliance strives to contract. AMI has consistently shown its dedication to protecting the environment and maintaining worker safety for AMI employees and our employees. Our understanding is AMI's Operation and Maintenance Plan is designed to have the smallest possible impact on the environment by (1) minimizing the number of drill pads, drilling multiple exploration holes from the same drill pad, and maximizing the use of previously disturbed areas; (2) shutting down drilling during the breeding season of protected species in the area, even though the project is not located in known habitat for those species; (3) using high-quality reclamation to restore the limited area impacted; and (4) completing all work (including reclamation) in less than a year. In other words, the planning and commitment behind this project is an example of AMI's strong focus on environmental responsibility. The Hermosa-Taylor drilling project is very minor and will negatively impact very little while providing a boost to the local economy in terms of jobs and spending. We sincerely hope that the Forest Service will take into consideration these important socio-economic effects, and AMI's significant efforts to avoid and minimize resource impacts, when evaluating this project, and that the Forest Service will not delay something this minor with an excessive review period.
Sincerely, Sarah McCraren
General Manager
McCraren Compliance