

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/20/2024 2:28:44 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: First I would like to address the Forest Service's denial of the request by the Town Of Patagonia and Santa Cruz County to extend the scoping period to 60 days. Just to be clear I am speaking for myself.

I would like to address the Forest Service's decision to deny the request from the Town of Patagonia and Santa Cruz County to extend the scoping period from 30 days to 60 days. As a member of the Town Council of Patagonia, I am expressing my personal opinion on this matter. I believe that the Forest Service has shown a lack of disrespect towards the Town of Patagonia. Our community will be the most impacted by the mining operation, and the quality of life in our town will be affected by the duration of the mine. We requested the extension to ensure that all relevant facts and complete scientific information could be presented to the Forest Service for their decision-making process. The extension would not have disrupted the process, but by rushing through it, the Forest Service is causing harm to the town and its residents.

Michael Stabile

Vice-mayor of Patagonia

Comments for S32 NEPA process:

I request that before the Forest Service grants permission to S32 to proceed with their plan of Operation a comprehensive water study be performed. It should be determined if the continued discharge of water will have any effect on the surrounding area and the Town Of Patagonia since the discharge is occurring in the Town's municipal watershed.

Questions that need answering:

How far out will the cone of depression extend?

Who will be affected?

Who will be responsible for restoring the lost water source?

Since the loss of water would be a direct result of allowing this project to go forward, who would be subject to a lawsuit, the Forest Service or S32, or both?

I would request the Forest Service to require S32 to exit their property through a route that heads South and avoids major roadways that support the local economies of Sonoita, Patagonia, and Nogales.

I would ask the Forest Service to require that S32 remain on their private land to the greatest extent possible, to maintain the natural environment, to protect any endangered species that are in the area (the spotted owl and the yellow-billed cuckoo, and the jaguar)

I would request the Forest Service before issuing approval for this project require a comprehensive study on the effects of Manganese dust.

What are the base levels of exposure that can have a dire effect on human health?

How will they be containing the manganese dust produced in mining operations from being released into the natural environment?

How and where are they going to dispose of Manganese residue which can be highly toxic?

Thank you for your time

Michael Stabile

Vice-mayor of Patagonia