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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Aimee Titcher and I am currently completing my PhD in Chemical Engineering in the UK, after completing a B.S. degree in Environmental Engineering at Yale University, however I grew up in Elgin and both of my parents and many friends still reside in the area. While I am currently far and safe from the problems that will be created by the development of the Hermosa Project, there are people in my life who will be directly affected and I feel it is my responsibility to reach out and submit my concerns.

I am writing concerning the issue of water quality problems that may arise from metal leachates from mine tailings entering and contaminating the groundwater reservoirs in the Sonoita-Patagonia-Elgin area. This is a critical concern, as the residents of these areas rely on independent and largely unregulated wells on personal property for drinking water sources. Heavy metal leaching is a serious human and environmental health hazard caused by mining, and I find it appalling that there is no discussion of safety measures to be taken on the topic of water testing for heavy metals. Individuals living in the affected area do not have the resources or facilities necessary for the identification of trace heavy metals in groundwater, which often requires water analysis through ICP-MS/ICP-OES.

From a more personal standpoint, I worry about my parents and friends who live in this area and want to protect them from potential health hazards such as exposure to heavy metals through drinking water. I would appreciate you reaching out to me to enlighten me on the plans and safety measures set in place to prevent adverse health effects for the population on which you are infringing.