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Comments: I Request EXTENDED TIME for public comment : I, in unity with the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, the Patagonia Mayor's office, and Congressman Raul Grijalva, request the public comment period be extended to a minimum 90 days. I respectfully request this extended review period due to the extensive size and scope of the project. In addition, there is a large amount of community opposition, which requires more time to be input. This has also been requested by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and our congressional representative.

My concerns around the mining permit center around water consumption, air quality, and discharge water quality.

Water consumption and pollution concerns: According to the permit application, the mine will use between 1.8 and 3.2 million gallons daily for operational purposes. Nearly 6.5 million gallons will be discharged into Harshaw Creek and Alum Gulch. This water is from an ancient aquifer and can never be replaced. Erosion and downstream contamination concerns have not been adequately addressed.

Air quality concerns: The mine will be yielding manganese, with corresponding inhalation risks from airborne contamination. At this point, the data that have been produced and discussed are strictly model based and do not reflect actual experiences around other mines of this metal. Traffic accidents also have the potential to release much dangerous material into the air, and once it settles, there is no adequate clean up method. Cancer incidence rates will increase.

Lead and manganese are heavy metals and are proven toxic to human health. Lead is regulated by the EPA, but Manganese is not and has proven to be a neurotoxin in humans. These contaminating

Best Regards,
Robert Von Mayr