

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/7/2024 12:06:30 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My husband and I have lived near Patagonia Lake for eight years. We offer these comments concerning the NEPA scoping process described in 89 FR 40462.

With respect to the sulfide ore that will be extracted and hauled through the immediate project area and the surrounding communities of Patagonia, Rio Rico, Lochiel, Harshaw and Nogales, please study the potential toxicity of sulfide in sediment pore water for aquatic organisms (e.g., Myrbo et al. (2017, JGR Biogeosciences, <https://doi.org.10.1002/2017JG003787>).

Please study the consequences of exposure to sulfide and extracted zinc, silver, and unspecified other "polymetallic" ore concentrates for the air, soils and watersheds in the immediate extraction areas.

Please study the indirect consequences on human health of increased exposure to sulfides and extracted ore concentrates via the air, soils and watersheds through the proposed transportation activities of the MPO. For example, please study the particulate concentrations of these substances that can be expected in the air, over what distance and what duration, beyond the immediate extraction site.

Please study credible scientific evidence concerning the impermeability of the "sealed containers" proposed in the MPO for transporting sulfides and extracted ore concentrates, and accordingly the potential impacts on air, water, soil, and health of human and non-human organisms should such containers release these materials into the air, water, or soils in the regions through which transport activities will occur.

Please study the cumulative impacts of the pumping, collection, storage and recharging activities on the quality of the creeks, lakes and soil into which affected water can reasonably be expected to be found, including Harshaw Creek, Sonoita Creek, and Patagonia Lake.

Please study the scientific evidence concerning the extent to which the tailing storage facilities and associated infrastructure proposed in the MPO can reasonably be expected to prevent harmful impacts of exposure to the sulfide, ore concentrates, and other "filtered tailings" on plants, endangered animals, and humans. Specifically, please study the evidence concerning the long-term efficacy of the proposed storage facilities and supporting infrastructure.

Please study the direct impacts of the current and proposed additional project-related traffic on the health and safety of residents and visitors who use area roads.

Please study the indirect impacts of the proposed MPO on existing and potential eco-tourism for Santa Cruz County.

Please study the impact of increased light and noise associated with the proposed extraction, tailings and waste rock storage, and transportation activities on the health and biological viability of threatened and endangered species in the area.

Please study the fire-resistance of the proposed high-voltage transmission lines in light of evidence that wildfires in recent years are hotter, and spread more rapidly, than in the past.

Please study the extent to which a significant wildfire in the immediate area of the MPO could affect the health of human and non-human residents of the surrounding region, and could indirectly affect the financial well-being of

the communities in Santa Cruz County.