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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a mother of two and have the future to think about for my children. I have been living in Arizona for 14 years, originally from Pennsylvania. I love southern Arizona and hope that this letter will propel the investigation of creating a future safety for the whole.

Please do investigating on what the maximum safe amount of manganese for the environment is first and foremost. This is a hazardous substance that needs to be regulated. Why continue in this project if the foundation of facts is not set in motion yet?

We also need to know the carbon imprint of this project from mine venting, diesel vehicles, 50 gas turbines, ore processing, and transport which will sky rocket the electrical usage of Arizona.

I would hope that your agency would be vigilant in protecting the natural resources of this Sky Island National Forest, which, in the age of global warming, is even more critical to so many species.

Water is a particularly scarce and precious resource, and the impacts of local dewatering of an aquifer cannot always be accurately predicted. Arizona already has been dealing with water issues, being a dessert and with growing population.

I understand that your agency cannot regulate below-the-ground activities; however, you can investigate the likely impacts of such activities if they seriously lower the water table and/or de-water surface flows that are essential for so many animals, plants, and ecosystems in these mountains.

Other impacts that should be studied include: the potential for air and water pollution from mining operations (including heavy equipment traffic); the impact of noise and night lighting on both human and animal communities; and the fallout from reduced tourism to the area, which provides a substantial part of the Patagonia area's economy.

Thank you for your serious action to this potentially catastrophic accumulative impact on our Forest lands, on our entire southern AZ eco system and well beings of humans.