

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/7/2024 6:23:11 PM

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Comments: The need for manganese in the United States is well recognized. Along with Copper and Silver, these will be the most critical minerals for our country to move forward to Social Responsibility in Energy consumption. We have these minerals in the ground in the United States and it makes no sense to rely on other countries to supply. It is our responsibility as a nation to mine these minerals in the United States.

Along with critical minerals, South 32 will provide much needed jobs to the Patagonia area to boost their economy as well as provide much needed funds for schools, police and fire departments by providing positive socioeconomic impacts created by the project in an area of high unemployment, low wages, and limited economic opportunities.

Process' planned to be used by South 32, show a consciousness of how past mining has affected the Environment and will use lessons learned when it comes to less ground disruption, water conservation, noise mitigation in using electrical vehicles, and tailings management to prevent waste.

The South 32 contributions to the Economy extends to the hundreds of local suppliers to the mine also. Thousands of jobs could be created and maintained for the life of the mine. Creating better economies far reaching from the Patagonia area into the rest of Arizona.

I for one as well as all my colleagues, heartily approve of the South 32 Hermosa mine.