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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please can you please research answers to the following questions to the best of your ability?:

1)Does South32 have plans in the case of emergency preparedness and response? Can their plan be assessed in terms of feasibility, reclamation, decontamination, and contamination prevention? Is there accountability to notify the public with the results of any leakage/ or toxicity found in their practices effecting the watershed or in the air?

2)Will there be proof of compliance with regulations set by 3rd party organization that can be made public? Are there regular audits/inspections going to be made by a 3rd party organization to prevent hazards to health and the environment? How does South 32 plan to cooperate with international limits on manganese in water and the soil (set by the World Health Organization or other respected International safety limitations)? If not will there be studies conducted to apply strict standards to acceptable limits on manganese in order to protect humans/wildlife?

3)How can the monitoring of wells planned by South 32 by a 3rd party organizations be guaranteed?

4)Can research be done on the increase of desertification/erosion/caving in of land due to water loss in the direct mining area and those areas water is being taken from?

5)Can a 3rd party organization track the displacement and volume of water being displaced/treated by South 32 and ensure accurate testing for toxins? Will there be water testing for traces of heavy metals in all the pathways water treated by S32 that will be potentially effected? Is there a cost benefit analysis being done- in regards to the effect of water loss to a bioregion in drought, and a populace in great demand of water-and the effect of losing more water if that can be done? The advertising and news regarding S32 is reporting such a dramatic increase in financial gain but can this be compared to the monetary and invaluable need for water for survival if possible?

6)Is there any remediation plan drawn up for the loss of vegetation and wildlife in the areas impacted by the developments of the Hermosa project on public land?

7)Are there any examples of similar mine designs such as that being proposed that do have positive/negative impacts environmentally that can be made available for the public to be informed outside of the information provided by S32? If South 32 or other companies have not had any experience that matches their beneficial claims of sustainability can they be held accountable for false advertising and how will they be held accountable for the claims that there will be " no major impact on the environment"?

8)What would cause South 32 to lose permits on public land if they are found to be causing detriment to or toxifying the environment? What other recourse does the local community have if there is a serious threat to life to prevent the project moving further in destruction/contamination if found doing so? Or if found noncompliant with 3rd party testing facilities standards? What are the reparations?

9)Are there any other toxic gases that maybe released by the mining on public lands such as sulfur etc? Any particulate matter? Can ADEQ have the power to enforce regulations in air quality?

10)What plans does South 32 have in order to uphold regulations of MSHA?

11)Can the Hermosa Project be shut down if found noncompliant to standards set by NEPA organizations or halted if certain proposals like above ground power lines found to be too much of a fire hazard for example?

12)What is the permanent damage to the country rock and geology of the aquifer/ or the underground rock layers when there is concrete used to backfill in an underground mine?

13)What is the potential hazards of using explosives on a mass scale and the potential of earth caving in during the extraction processes or thereafter? Is there a risk of sink holes and if so, what can South 32 do to mitigate this issue?

14)Has South 32 come up with any alternative plans to backfill in the underground mine other than using concrete that could be comparatively stable?

15)What will be the effect of depleting the water in the areas where water is pumped out of the mine in terms of the health of the environment especially the aquifer-and the movement of water directly surrounding the mine?

How is the aquifer protected from seepage contamination above ground and below ground? How about the effect especially to the water cycle? Can South 32 be obligated invest in remediation plans for loss of wildlife and water? Can they invest in plants specializing in filtering out of heavy metals?

16) If the tailings are exposed to rain/ windstorms etc. what are the potential hazards to soil, and water? Can traces of the heavy metals be found from traffic on surfaces in the surrounding areas in contact with the vehicles coming out of the mine and are there any adverse effects?

17) What is the current tourism and recreation value of the Coronado National Forest and surrounding areas that will be impacted by the Hermosa mine? What is the anticipated degradation to the natural beauty? Are there any habitat pathways of migratory/endangered species, or protected wildlife that will be affected by the expansion of the Hermosa project including roadways, pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation, drought etc.?

18) In the case of seepage of heavy metals into the municipal drinking water, is South 32 obligated to run tests in the municipal water supply in surrounding area, and how do they track where the seepage is coming from? If there are signs of heavy metal poisoning, what is the process of restoring the soil, water and what is South 32's plan to account for this?

19) What is the extent and spread of potential air pollution caused the dry tailings being stored above ground? What are the alternatives to this storage explored?

20) Will there be any reparations made by South 32 required for any degradation/damage to public land?

21) How does South 32 compare to other current mining methods, in regards to sustainability?

22) Has the consulting firm South 32 used for geologic surveys shared their findings with a 3rd party organization responsible for geologic safety practices and environmental protection for all mining operations?

23) Will any biologists be hired to conduct environmental impact surveys?

24) Can the power lines and power used by South 32 cause increases shortages during the summer months etc.- i.e. if the electricity is connected to the grid of nearby communities?

25) Are there other chemical bi-products of the expanding mining operation that may be harmful contaminants that will need cleanup or treatment? Will there be any acid mine drainage? Does this mining project cause acidification of the soil in any areas surrounding the mines and are there adverse effects to this?

26) Will there be long lasting scars on the mining sites and is there any reclamation plan including restoration of the surface and of revegetation of native plants and soil biota? Will these scars be quite visible from popular vantage points for scenic tourism points?

27) Can the pollution from all the machinery and transport of mining materials be estimated, including all mining transportation or traffic? Can there be research done on the effect to air pollution and insurance of regulation to the newest EPA standards on vehicles? Is there any machinery used that may cause excess air pollution?

My apologies for any redundancy, in efforts to make sure all angles are covered in the case that I may have not worded particular concerns in the terms necessary. I err on over communication due to the utmost importance to me on these issues.

Thank you kindly for taking considerable time to research these concerns,

Sincerely,
Lisa Meyer