

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/7/2024 8:46:51 PM

First name: William

Last name: Poulsen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My overall top objection to the Hermosa Critical Mineral project is the choosing of South 32 as the company who will be running the mining operation.

This global corporation has a long track record of destructive mining techniques, breaking the rules and leaving mining sites with long term generational environmental destruction in most locations that it operates. I am also against this mining in general, because of the severe negative impact on the environment, but it is the choice of South 32 that puts the icing on the cake. For example, they have been known to choose to disregard the water usage limits put in place by regions and elect to simply pay the fine when caught, as the fine costs them less than what would be lost due to shutting down production.

Here in Arizona the water usage is a very large concern, and either using the water we all need to survive as a region is bad enough, the other concern is the pollution of the water systems by the mining operation that may cause the limited water supply to become unsafe or useless for our residents and agricultural operations in the area.

No one has really defined why these minerals are classified as "critical". One of the main uses such as Electric Vehicles, has declined as people are discovering the pitfalls of that technology and many of us have been closely studying the environmental impact of EV's vs gas vehicles, and concluding that the EVs may actually be worse overall for the environment.

I and many others stand 100% against this mining operation in this area. Not just the mining itself, but the traffic caused by the additional trucks on the road for this activity and the inherent danger of accidents and unintentional pollution that may be caused by transporting these materials throughout the area. We do not want a disaster on our hands that would cause harm to our region.

Please take note of these and other comments. So-called jobs for the area do not override the need to protect our people and our environment.