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Comments: I am writing to express my deep concern and strong opposition to the Hermosa Mine as well as any future land expansions, therefore requesting to please study the many relevant factors involved, of which I will only briefly address just a few here.

To my knowledge, there has not been an independent Regional Impact Study yet done and without that, no permitting of the project should be allowed now, if ever, depending on the study's findings.

Please examine the impact in creating unsafe roads, especially with 80-ton trucks breaking down roadways daily and creating tremendous expenditures to constantly repair and maintain, with the financial burden on the public, and within Arizona's poorest county of Santa Cruz. What is the accountability of South 32 and what is the plan for holding them responsible consistently and thoroughly?

Please study the inordinate amount of toxic dust created and various impacts locally therein, as well as surrounding communities, and ultimately the entire state of Arizona. What measures have been considered for mitigating this or will you pursue?

Please study the reality of pulling 10 million gallons of water per day, which is insane to draw from anywhere, let alone an arid desert, ultimately destroying everybody's water and drying up private wells and depleting the collective water table. How can this possibly work or remotely appear viable? And if so, please explain (in detail) how.

Please study what safety measures are being proposed (and in detail) to ensure the health and well-being of local residents, any and all workers, and future generations of Arizonians are safe and protected in the highest ways, not compromised, especially with the Hermosa Mine discharging water.

Has it been studied to explore the Hermosa Mine creating needless yet predictable emergencies, risking not only life and limb, but environmental crises and if not, this needs to be done extensively. If so, what are the measures, if any?

Thus please also study environmental impacts and devastation to the earth itself, eco-systems, wildlife particularly within more than 300 acres of national forest (and destroying outdoor recreation areas), including the proposal to replace water pulled from the ground with a toxic cement-mix filler, destroying the living systems.

And frankly, this is moving into unknown and uncharted territory, with potential shifting of the lands underground due to creation of sink holes and other cavities and pockets from pulling inordinate amounts of water and minerals. Where are the studies addressing these possibilities and concerns.

Please study what are the plans to implement solid systems for monitoring (ongoing) potentially toxic levels of lead, manganese, and zinc released into the air, soil, and water as part of the mining operations and transportation of materials. Self-monitoring by South 32 is unregulated, unaccountable, and unacceptable as a "game plan." So what measures are you considering and please express them in full disclosure and with clarity. The public has every right to know.

Please study how the mine operations are planning to handle the liability issues that will inevitably arise? And what is being done for prevention therein?

Please study what will be the true short-term and long-term impacts of the Hermosa Mine and proposed land expansion for the water shed and air shed in a vast radius extending for hundreds of miles from the mine.

Please study in relation to Nogales and Rio Rico-(where the recent rezoning plan potentially will lay groundwork for the mining company South 32 to build a processing plant in relation to the Hermosa Mine)-the long-term negative impacts and compromises, both environmentally and socially, as well as culturally, which are of grave concern for all our families and neighbors throughout the county. Please disclose all related information or the plan or plans available, if none yet, then please do an extensive research effort and devise a solid plan.

Please study the Hermosa Mine project's various negative impacts on everything from the beautiful flora and fauna (including world-renowned bird-watching habitats), to our water, soil, and air quality, along with the wonderful historic ranches, which are serious cultural and traditional considerations too.

Please study the antiquated laws from 1878 that loosely govern (at best) the Hermosa Mine and South 32. Frankly, it's just ludicrous and needs to go to the state legislature to overturn and come up to speed with modern demands and current true needs.

Please study this 20-minute video addressing the company South 32 that is behind the Patagonia mining and related proposed processing of manganese in Rio Rico. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVQEUSF-Nu8>

It is my opinion that the best alternative that should be explored, for everyone concerned, is how this mine can basically cease and desist, no longer raping the land and robbing people of their current and future health and safety, and prevent multiple negative and long-lasting ecological impacts on the region, some (or potentially all) of which may be irreversible.

In looking to the future of all our children and grandchildren, we each have a sobering and great accountability to not only protect our local environment, but as well also to protect the rich history and cultural heritage we all love and appreciate living here in southern Arizona. Even more paramount is the responsibility we each shoulder to protect the health and safety of children and adults alike.

In closing, I am a woman of faith, and I believe that one day we shall all meet our Heavenly Father and be held accountable for our choices-good and bad. So I beseech everyone involved in assessing and/or implementing this mining project and proposed expansion to choose wisely-in favor of caring for people, their health and safety, and ultimately their lives and families, which of course then also includes being good stewards environmentally of our lands. Money and capitalism are not the priority; the people are always what's important, and I believe if we're honest with ourselves, we each know that deep in our heart and soul.

It is a tremendous responsibility we all shoulder here in Southern Arizona, for not only everyone living in this special area now, but also future generations.

Thank you. I implore all involved with the NEPA process to steadfastly uphold the highest good, for the most people possible, with the ultimate integrity called for in such an endeavor.

Respectfully, and in the seriousness of the times,

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