

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/9/2024 9:44:33 PM

First name: Nancy

Last name: McCoy

Organization:

Title:

Comments: We are residents of Patagonia, Arizona, and are very concerned about the potential impacts of South 32's Hermosa mine project on our area. These concerns include water quality and quantity, air quality, the effects on local wildlife, the effects on local tourism and our nature-based economy, the effects on community's health, the effects on our roads from heavy truck traffic, and the cumulative impacts with other mining efforts near to this mining project.

Please study the impacts of this proposed mining project on the following areas:

The availability of water to wells and springs in the area as South 32 dewateres the area. This study must also look into the future impacts as dewatering may go on for the life of the mine. Water is essential for human life as well as local flora and fauna.

The quality and quantity of water being discharged from the mine into local creeks and aquifers. Water quality needs to be monitored at various locations as it heads downstream. South 32 is responsible for discharging this water and needs to be accountable for it beyond its discharge site at the mine. What will be the impacts on area water after the mine has closed?

The effects that noise, dewatering, and traffic from this mining project will have on local wildlife and plants. What impacts will this project have on wildlife populations and breeding habitats? Will local flora and fauna be impacted by traffic, dust, spills from trucks, or polluted water in creeks and springs?

The effects of mining activity on our area's nature-based economy. Joe Marlowe from the Sonoran Institute studied the potential impacts of the Rosemont Mine on the area's tourism economy when that project was first being proposed. Certainly the Forest Service can do the same.

The effects of manganese on community health as well as the mine employees working with this substance. The Forest Service needs to make sure that a definite limit is put on the amount of manganese that is in the air, as well as an independent monitoring system with an established baseline that is determined well before mining begins.

The cumulative impacts of the Hermosa project along with other potential nearby mining projects. What effects will mining truck traffic have on our roads and highways? Who will be responsible for road maintenance and safety?

Systems for monitoring impacts on air, water, traffic, wildlife, and community health must be put in place before South 32 is granted Forest Service approval. This monitoring must be done by agencies or individuals who are not associated with this mining project. Appropriate penalties must be in place and be enforceable.

Thank you for reviewing and considering our comments.

Nancy McCoy

Ralph Schmitt

Patagonia, AZ

