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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a resident of Patagonia, AZ. I am concerned about the harm to humans from exposure to particulate pollution, especially from magnesium. It is my understanding that there is no established toxic level for magnesium. (www.cdc.gov)

In 2018, a Columbian (Columbia, South America) court reversed a \$400 million judgment against South 32's Cerro Matoso nickel mine. The original judgment awarded damages to indigenous people for exposure to dust and ashes from the mine, which caused numerous diseases. (mining.com) [newsletter 9-21-2018]

One of the arguments made by South32 against the judgment was that "there is no scientific evidence that establishes a causal relationship between the health problems that may exist in the communities and the operation of CERRO MATOSO S.A." (www.corteconstitucional.gov.co/relatoria/2017/t-733-17.htm). In the same citation, the court noted that Columbia does not have standards for the toxicity of nickel.

I am concerned that South32 could use the same argument against us if we have health problems from exposure to magnesium as dust, from spillover into our waterways, or in our drinking water. I request that the Forest Service does not allow this project until there are EPA and NIOSH standards for exposure to magnesium. I also request that the Forest Service conduct a worldwide review of South32 and its subsidiaries as to its record for environmental degradation and harm to nearby communities. South32 has mines all over the world and has caused human and environmental damage, even in Australia, its home country.

Although South32 will keep records and monitor the contaminants and emissions from mining, there must be frequent monitoring and review from an outside agency that is not hired by South32.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.