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Comments:

I am a resident of Santa Cruz County, AZ, and I do not think the final draft of the Hermosa Project EIS should be approved. I do not feel the residents of Patagonia or Santa Cruz County are being considered in this process.

We have not had any decent informational sessions to explain how this mine will impact the area. No one from ADEQ has come to the communities and answered questions from the public. All we got was some ineffective open houses where there were some confusing posters or charts in a noisy room. Residents had to come up with questions to ask at each table and we didn't get the benefit of hearing others people's questions or the responses they got. I also don't think those open houses were effective for non English speakers. Even appearances in front of the Board of Supervisors were very ineffective because they either would not take questions from the public or they claimed they could not answer the questions at that time. We were told they would "get back to us" with the answers. In addition, those meetings are usually held in the mornings on a Wednesday which makes it hard for most people to attend those meetings. They are also not very good for Spanish speaking residents. Even the ADEQ public comment sessions were a joke. I'm not even sure what the purpose of those sessions was. No one from ADEQ spoke and no one answered questions or responded to comments from residents of the community. Why were they even there? Getting an email a month later responding to the questions/comments in batches was useless.

This whole process just feels very disingenuous and heavily weighted toward South 32. I am not a scientist and cannot understand the DEIS. How are non scientists who speak Spanish as their first language supposed to understand it? South 32 is buying their way into the county and ADEQ is just fine with that. They are bombarding the airwaves (as well as billboards) with their propaganda about how wonderful they are and how great they will be for the community.

I am worried that the residents of SCC aren't aware of the increased antimony levels in the water near the mine. I am also concerned that residents don't know how this mine will affect the groundwater in the area or the air quality. Why was no comprehensive groundwater study done? Many wells in the area have been depleted and S32 either ignores the issue, tries to bribe the property owners or brushes the problem away. All we get from Pat Risner and his sycophants is propaganda. Everything is GREAT! I don't believe anything that South 32 says.

Isn't ADEQ supposed to look out for the residents of Arizona or is your purpose to help the foreign mining companies? I feel like it's the latter. This DEIS should not be approved until we have a comprehensive groundwater study, remedies for the increased antimony levels in the water, explanations for the other discrepancies that have been found in the water near the mine and proof that this mine will not deplete all of our water in the Patagonia mountains.