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Comments: Groundwater in the Cibola National Forest is already under stress, and this proposal adds a serious new threat. I oppose the Roca Honda Mine Project and ask the agency to address the specific concerns below.

The project's own overview states that the developmental drilling and infrastructure on National Forest lands will support an underground uranium mine and water treatment plant on adjacent state and private lands. The EIS is being led by the Cibola National Forest, yet the notice does not identify which federal, state, or tribal agencies will serve as cooperating agencies, and it does not explain how impacts from the mine itself will be analyzed given that the mine sits off NFS lands. The agency must disclose the full list of cooperating agencies and confirm that the EIS scope will cover the entire connected action, not only the surface disturbance on Forest Service ground.

The project summary identifies the expected analysis type as an Environmental Impact Statement, yet the project milestones table shows the "Milestone Date NEPA Start Date Finding/Decision Date" fields left blank. Without those dates, I cannot know when scoping begins, when a draft EIS will be available, or when a decision will be made. The agency needs to publish a project schedule with firm milestone dates so that affected communities, tribal governments, and other stakeholders can plan meaningful participation. Please respond to this scheduling gap.

The core issue is water. This project is an incredible waste of groundwater. Beyond the volume consumed, the proposal involves a water treatment plant, which raises an immediate question: if water extracted during mining operations is already contaminated, how will it be disposed of without affecting human health? The agency must explain on the record what happens to contaminated water, where it goes, and what safeguards prevent it from reaching drinking water supplies or other waters connected to the region.