



Rachel Heinz <heinz.rachel@azdeq.gov>

Draft AZPDES renewal permit for South32 Hermosa Project (AZ0026387); LTF No. 95353

1 message

Mark Davis <mdavis@azpumpco.com>

Fri, Jan 12, 2024 at 4:22 PM

To: "heinz.rachel@azdeq.gov" <heinz.rachel@azdeq.gov>

Dear Ms. Heinz,

I support the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's proposal to renew the AZPDES permit for the South32 Hermosa Project south of Patagonia. I believe the permit complies with the federal Clean Water Act and parallel Arizona state law and will protect the quality of the permitted receiving waters.

The South32 Hermosa project has already become an important part of Arizona Pump & Machine's business. Our work on water and wastewater treatment equipment as well as mining equipment at the Hermosa site has led us to hire additional millwrights and machinists. Hermosa's water treatment system is one of the best run and best designed we have seen in this type of application and they are scrupulous in its operation and maintenance.

Hermosa forms an integral part of our growth plan for the next several years and AZP&M will be hiring additional skilled and unskilled personnel in Pima and Santa Cruz counties to support this valuable customer as they expand their operations. These are good paying, long term jobs with very competitive benefits that can build community and support families in southern AZ.

South32 has proven itself to be a responsible permit holder and good corporate citizen. The Hermosa project also offers the prospect of badly needed economic development in a community that needs more. If the mine is ultimately developed, it will also provide the only domestic source of manganese and a key additional domestic source of zinc. Manganese and zinc are critical minerals of substantial strategic importance to the American economy and the clean energy transition.

I urge ADEQ to approve the proposed permit renewal as written.

Best regards,

Mark Davis

Arizona Pump & Machine/Keto Pumps NA

****Please Note My NEW Email Address: mdavis@azpumpco.com ****

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