

My name is Jay Thompson a 15+ year resident of Rio Rico Arizona and a Board Member of Calabasas Alliance. I agree with the comments of colleagues and neighbors that following current regulations to the letter of law is paramount to build trust and keeping us safe to include: the mine designation is that it is new / not existing; monitoring technology and timing; studies / data; and where discharges occur.

As background, I was born and raised in a mining community that suffered the many health effects of land, air and water pollution – and the town now has no businesses left since the mines moved on. Water pollution problems remain today, as do health issues.

I have a Mechanical Engineering degree, so I am about data and logic versus reality. In my first corporate career, I travelled to many of the largest mines around the world. There are similar issues with mining and processing everywhere – with many land, water and air pollution lessons surrounding the mining, transport, processing and use of these minerals in products we buy.

For the last 30+ years, I have been involved in the shipping world that includes trucking on public roadways, rail, marine and air. Transport has many safety-related risks, but much greater ones when involving hazardous materials. Accidents will happen!

So, I wish to reference and incorporate PARA's comments into my input, but also want to briefly highlight additional questions regarding the water discharge to include the water use on the mine and county roadways.

One of the EPA issues in Santa Cruz County is the airborne dust pollution levels in the Nogales area. When we have increased traffic on unimproved roadways, that increases dust. When water is used on roads, whatever is in that water will become airborne when it starts to dry up. Also, excess water used on roadways runs off into the surrounding area, as does carry-out dirt tracking – and fuel, oil, coolant and ore leakage from vehicles.

We need data to understand all this, which underscores the need to be transparent and to know we are “addressing and monitoring” all these processes. More work is needed!

Thank You,  
Jay Thompson