

Karen Gates

Dear Arizona Department of Environmental Quality,

I'm writing to urge you to deny South 32's Hermosa permit (#AZ0026387) for discharge of mine water into Harshaw and Alum creeks.

Although South 32 has rights as a landowner, it does not have the right to destroy other landowners' use and enjoyment of their property. Such drastic alteration of our underground water system will adversely affect everyone's water supply, and cause irreversible harm to animal and plant life in this fragile area.

We rely on oversight by you and others in our state government to protect our lives, our property values and the ecosystem at large. Surely the many residents of this area should have a voice at least as loud as South 32's in this important matter.

Please live up to your department's name and make the right decision to protect the quality of our natural environment and deny the permit for this project.

Sincerely,

Karen Gates