

Clark Hansen

Dear Arizona Department of Environmental Quality,

I was born in Arizona and plan to return there one day. I'm writing to urge you to deny South32's Hermosa permit (#AZ0026387) for discharge of mine water into Harshaw and Alum creeks. This is NOT the place to conduct mining operations. The proposed impacts are unacceptable.

It's foolhardy to use the dewatering method in this area -- you don't want to create a cone of depression around the mine, not to mention the havoc the mine would create from increased flow rates in nearby creeks -- six MILLION unsupportable gallons per day devastating Harshaw Creek and another 172 thousand catastrophic gallons a day thrust into Alum Creek. This is not how to manage water in a place where water is so precious -- just because the mine CAN doesn't mean it should -- it's so destructive and disruptive!

Cutting off supply to vital springs that have developed naturally over centuries, killing trees and causing ecosystem collapse? NO! Don't allow it!

Think of the upstream erosion, excessive sediment piling up downstream and the wiping out of vital seeps and springs. Think of the endemic species -- who are using a limited area very efficiently -- that you'll wipe off the face of the earth! Flash floods, disappearing cottonwoods and sycamores, and unknown changes in the quality of water coming from deep in the mines. NO! Don't allow it!

I urge you and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to deny the permit for this project.

Sincerely,

Clark Hansen, Arizona native