

Laurie Nessel

I strenuously object to the ADEQ plan to renew AZPDES No. AZ0026387 for South32's Hermosa Project mine.

The proposed Permit is in violation of the Clean Water Act and Arizona's surface water quality laws. The issuance of the Permit is contrary to ADEQ's own rules which require that ADEQ "act to protect the environment", promote "the protection and enhancement of the quality of water resources", provide for the "prevention and abatement of all water and air pollution"; and "[e]nsure the preservation and enhancement of natural beauty" in our state.

ADEQ must not issue the permit until the contaminated waters of Harshaw Creek, Alum Gulch, and Sonoita Creek complies with Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) rules required by the Clean Water Act. We must clean up our waterways and drainages and restore Arizona's rare natural treasures, including the Patagonia area mountains, to good health. ADEQ's avoidance and trivializing of its TMDL obligations in the Permit is reprehensible. Please DO NOT issue this permit. Please keep me updated on this permit process.

Hoping ADEQ lives up to it's name,
Laurie Nessel