

Katya Peterson & Pierre Landau

As a family who has owned property off of Harshaw Road for a decades, with the idea of eventually building a house on it, we object strenuously to the current rush to permitting for the Hermosa Mine project. Please note the mine is located only a stone's throw away from our property.

Two principal issues concern us:

(1) a discharge permit allowing water to flow into Harshaw Creek will sweep large amounts of heavy metals into the watershed used for Patagonia's drinking water. This is true whether or not the water itself is sourced from somewhere much deeper than surface water, since the whole area is heavily laden with metals, and the additional water will serve only to mobilize it.

(2) worldwide experience with manganese mining has shown major health issues related to manganese dust, which would be scattered not only adjacent to the mine site, but all along the ore transport route. While that route has not been finalized, the most likely options would still allow major contamination of significant portions of the Patagonia township area and all options would contaminate Harshaw Road.

We strongly urge you to consider the opinions of the local residents and long-term taxpayers such as our family. The opinions of experts NOT associated with the applicant mining company should also be front and center in your deliberations. We urge you to deny South32 these permits!