

Dona LaSchiava

Protect the Patagonia Mountains from South32! Water is our planet's most precious natural resource, especially in drought stricken regions such as Arizona, and commands being protected as such! REJECT Permit No. AZ0026387!

The AZPDES Permit would allow discharge of up to 6.48 million gallons of mine water per day into Upper Harshaw Creek. This water will be produced from deep and destructive mine dewatering wells, and it will include historic and new seepage from the mine's tailings piles, core cuttings, and potentially acid-generating (PAG) rock from mine shaft development. The waters of Upper Harshaw Creek are impaired (contaminated) with elevated levels of copper, and low pH (acidity) that can result in heavy metal contamination. Despite documented impairments in the receiving waters of Harshaw Creek, ADEQ takes the position that it need not prepare a TMDL analysis to regulate South32's discharges into these impaired surface waters so that water quality standards can be achieved. This violates the Clean Water Act!