

Richard Hartigan

Dear Arizona Department of Environmental Quality,

I'm writing to urge you to deny South32's Hermosa permit (#AZ0026387) for discharge of mine water into Harshaw and Alum creeks. The damage to local springs and landscapes through a lowered water table will likely include a great loss of trees that we count on to process CO₂, provide cooling shade and habitat, stabilize slopes, and inspire us with their beauty.

While it would be amazing to have year round surface water flowing in Harshaw Creek and Alum Gulch, it would also disturb and possibly destroy sensitive habitats that exist now, it would also disturb/destroy the diversity and geographic spread of springs in the area, which a number of threatened and endangered species rely on.

Please preserve this unique and extremely diverse habitat and biological community.

Thank you,

R. H.