



Rachel Heinz <heinz.rachel@azdeq.gov>

**AZPDES renewal permit for South32 Hermosa Project (AZ0026387); LTF No. 95353**

1 message

Leon Punt <lpunt@copperstate.com>

Fri, Jan 12, 2024 at 12:50 PM

To: "heinz.rachel@azdeq.gov" <heinz.rachel@azdeq.gov>

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Quality Division, Surface Water Protection

Attn: Rachel Heinz

[1110 W. Washington St.](#)

[Phoenix, AZ 85007](#)

Dear Ms. Heinz:

I support the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's proposal to renew the AZPDES permit for the South32 Hermosa Project south of Patagonia. I believe the permit complies with the federal Clean Water Act and parallel Arizona state law and will protect the quality of the permitted receiving waters.

This project is important to the company I work for (Copper State Bolt & Nut Co.), but not only is it important for us with the support we give the project, it also is very important to the contactors on site and any other supply company who is providing good to the Site. This is an economic boost for all. The Hermosa project also is an economic boost severely needed for the surrounding communities with the jobs it helps provide.

South32 has proven itself to be a responsible permit holder and good corporate citizen. If the mine is ultimately developed, it will also provide the only domestic source of manganese and a key additional domestic source of zinc. Manganese and zinc are critical minerals of great importance to the American economy and the clean energy transition.

I would sincerely hope ADEQ would approve the proposed permit renewal as written.

Sincerely,



**Leon Punt**

*Regional Vice President – Heavy Industrial*

Copper State Bolt & Nut Co.

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