

# Living Desert Alliance

Good day,

In a recent public meeting with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) staff, over 200 people attended to express their concerns that the agency would not properly monitor the groundwater or enforce the permit's requirements. Their concerns included the following:

- The company would self-monitor the wells instead of ADEQ and report problems within 5 days after discovering any problems, which would mean the groundwater would already be contaminated.
- ADEQ would rely on reports from the company about catching any groundwater contamination.
- There would be no incentive for the company to report accurately.
- The permit allows the company to start operating before monitoring wells are drilled to allow the agency to obtain natural background levels of contaminants in groundwater.
- There are no consequences if the requirements of the permit are not met.
- Arizona does not currently have state standards for sulfates in drinking water.

Some local governments and employment groups support this because the pit brings jobs to the area. While that may be true, without proper monitoring of waste from the pit or if there should be an environmental accident, water quality will be unsafe for generations. Without safe drinking water, there are no jobs, there are no towns!

Open-pit mining has been discovered to be one of the most dangerous surface mining techniques in the mining industrial world. It causes significant impacts on the environment, as well as damage to the health of miners. Below are proven impacts of open-pit mining on the environment.

- Soil Erosion and Pollution
- Species Extinction
- Sinkhole Formation
- Habitat Destruction
- Noise and Light Pollution
- Deforestation and Vegetation Loss
- Water Pollution
- Air Pollution.

The Living Desert Alliance represents over 1400 members who do not support this initiative because we treasure the unique environment of our state. We (I) urge you do not issue the Aquifer Protection Permit to Copper World. Follow your mission "To protect and enhance public health and the environment in Arizona."

If you must, then please put measures in place that allow ADEQ to monitor groundwater quality Starting NOW! Do not allow Hudbay to self-monitor; a process that begins TWO years from the approval of the permit.

Thank you,

Brad D'Emidio, President

Living Desert Alliance

Livingdesertalliance@gmail.com

Save the Santa Rita Mtns | Living Desert Alliance



# Living Desert Alliance

*Keep Our Desert and Community Livable and Thriving*

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To: ADEQ Main Office  
1110 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Electronic Submission: [Copper World Project \(commentinput.com\)](http://Copper World Project (commentinput.com))

From: Brad D'Emidio, President  
Living Desert Alliance  
PO Box 776  
Marana, Az 85658

Re: Opposition of the approval of Copper World Project, AQUIFER PROTECTION PERMIT  
NO. P-513690 PLACE ID 217930, LTF 90620

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Brad D'Emidio, President  
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