

Karen Peters, ADEQ Executive Deputy Director,

I urge you to reject the proposed air-pollution permit for the Copper World mine. As it's currently drafted, the proposed permit does little to ensure the mine protects our air or environment. Instead, it gives the mine a free pass to pollute an area that is populated and experiences unpredictable winds, rain and weather systems.

**There is no current weather model that would allow ADEQ to properly assess and moderate the air pollution that could occur as a result of this operation and 100% ensure the safety of the residents, so why is this even being considered?**

The draft permit would allow for the construction of a massive open-pit mining operation in the Santa Rita Mountains south of Tucson. Daily operations will include blasting, ore crushing, processing, and the construction of a sulfuric acid plant. **These activities have the potential to release thousands of tons of toxic air pollution every year, threatening public health and the environment.** Where is the concern for the community that surrounds this project? Why is this even being considered?

I'm especially concerned that the permit contains the following deficiencies:

- It exempts the mine from compliance during malfunctions, startups, and shutdowns. If the mine can't comply at all times, it shouldn't get a permit to pollute.
- It fails to require actual monitoring of emissions from all sources to ensure compliance with all limits. Monitoring must be required to ensure compliance.
- It lacks specific terms and conditions to ensure the enforceability of all emissions limits.
- It inappropriately classifies certain emissions sources as "fugitive," allowing the mine to avoid more stringent permitting and pollution-control requirements.
- In short, it doesn't make sure the Copper World mine will fully protect the air we breathe.

There are several schools in close proximity to this proposed mine, and if water and air permits are approved, ADEQ will put the health and safety of residents, **including children** at risk.

IF you are pragmatic as both an organization, you will give the comments posted from Corona de Tucson residents more weight, as our homes will be subject to the **air pollution, water pollution, water insecurity, increased traffic and demolition of our natural landscape** that this massive open-pit mining operation will create. If there are comments in favor for this proposed mine, I strongly encourage ADEQ to validate their addresses and ensure they live in the impacted areas.

Many of us moved here to enjoy the mountain surround, biodiversity, running and hiking trails and limited traffic the area is known for. **IF this permit is approved and this mining operation is allowed to proceed, it would destroy that completely. For these reasons, I call on you to deny the permit application in its entirety.**

I ask that you refer to Patagonia South32 Hermosa Project to get a good view of what populated communities experience when they permit mining. Residents continue to battle health hazards from pollution and it should be a lesson to us all. I understand the need for mining, however it is critical to mine in **unpopulated areas** without a surrounding community, and in partnership with **REPUTABLE** companies who work to reduce the impact to health and safety.

**REJECT this permit. Keep our community safe.**

Blaine deVesty, Corona de Tucson Resident