

Ayda MacDuff

From a healthcare provider standpoint, the proposed air quality permit that has been requested by Copper World does not meet my standards of health and safety for my family or myself. This proposed permit authorizes the construction and operating of the Copper World Project which would pose the health risk of many Corona de Tucson residents. There have been many studies regarding the health risks associated with copper open pit mines throughout Arizona.

According to the U.S Dept of Health & Human Services ATSDR division (2022) "copper usually attaches to particles (particulate matter) and can travel far from its source. The exposure of too much copper can lead to illnesses and or disease and cause side effects associated with vomiting nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhea and ingestion at higher amounts than recommended can lead kidney and liver damage (para 3), which I have seen firsthand.

According to Baum & Arnold (2023) the aerosolization of silica can be hazardous to anyone's health as "typical immune mechanisms cannot clear these particles from the lung, initiating a pathologic cycle of inflammation and parenchymal damage" which can lead to pulmonary fibrosis and restrictive lung disease which significant morbidity and mortality that has no cure. As you can imagine this could be detrimental to community members including young children and those who are immunocompromised.

As you have noted in your proposal, you have a plan to avoid such emissions by using dust suppression sprays, but the reality is that none of your plans you have outlined can 100% guarantee that no community members will be exposed to the particulate matter that includes nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, Sulphur dioxide, volatile organic compounds, hazardous air pollutants and greenhouse gasses. Additionally, I am sure you are not aware of our wind patterns in this area. I implore you to educate yourselves on such topic and ask yourselves and develop a workflow that would correspond to such phenomena.

At this juncture, from my perspective, the health risk associated with the closeness of this open pit mine poses a greater health risk to the community than a benefit.

Baum, L. & Arnold, T. C. (2023) Silicosis. National Library of Medicine. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK594245/>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (2022). ToxFAQs for Copper. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Retrieved from <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/ToxFAQs/ToxFAQsDetails.aspx?faqid=205&toxid=37>