

carissa sipp

Dear Karen Peters, ADEQ Executive Deputy Director,

I write this letter to you on a day when, finally after days of ozone and BAD air quality alerts, we have a day off. I am tired of burning my lungs in Pima county due to excessive pollution. It has gotten insanely worse since coming to Tucson years ago. My children now are regulated to 'outdoor activity after 8pm' when the alert is 'to be lifted' and the air (AQI) is in the 'safe zone'.

With this daily AQI warning and air on par with Beijing some days, I am writing to beg you to do the right thing as the AZ ENVIRONMENTAL Quality guru and authority. Reject the proposed air-pollution permit for the Copper World mine. As this permit stands today it will be unreasonable for citizens of Pima to live here and expect a high quality of life. Citizens even closer to the mine will be inundated with air pollution and the recreational tourism and travel to the Santa Rita Mountains will tank. No one wants to inhale air that can enable cardiac arrest or literally burn young children's developing lungs (Ozone).

The current permit allows for the construction of a massive open-pit mining operation in the Santa Rita Mountains south of Tucson. Daily operations can and 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. This is going to be a bad AQI reporting daily by AZEQ.

With this permit and if you approve it, you are placing profit over the health and quality of life for my family and all other families in southern AZ. You are asking for a sacrifice of our lives for corporate greed. You can do better and require a stronger permit to help citizens and the mine co-exist. You need to hold Copper World accountable to the people.

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

- 1.) 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.
- 2.) It fails to require actual monitoring of emissions from all sources to ensure compliance with all limits. Monitoring must be required to ensure compliance.
- 3.) It lacks specific terms and conditions to ensure the enforceability of all emissions limits.
- 4.) It inappropriately classifies certain emissions sources as "fugitive," allowing the mine to avoid more stringent permitting and pollution-control requirements.
- 5.) It doesn't make sure the Copper World mine will fully protect the air we breathe and will be catastrophic for daily AQI in our region.

I call on you to deny the permit application. You must require the Copper World mine to obtain a Class I permit.

Under the Clean Air Act, a Class I permit imposes more stringent requirements to control emissions, ensure monitoring, and ensure more extensive public involvement. A Class I permit is necessary so that the mine is **always** accountable for limiting its air pollution and protecting the environment — no exceptions.

For too long the Arizona mining industry has been allowed to pollute with impunity. And we, the citizens, pay for this lack of oversight by our representatives and government agencies that were supposed to protect us. If you allow this permit you will be responsible for an increase in illness and death in southern AZ. This is not a statement to be taken lightly as we know air pollution is causing millions of premature death worldwide and in the US (<https://airquality.gsfc.nasa.gov/health>). A pass for Copper World to pollute as desired is just another notch in that statistic if you allow this permit to be approved. I urge you to hold Hudbay Minerals and the Copper World mine accountable instead of giving them a free pass to pollute.