

Melanie Mizell

I urge ADEQ to NOT APPROVE the Air Quality permit.

I support the technical comments submitted by Pima County in the September 11, 2024, letter to ADEQ.

The permit as presented is based on best case scenarios for weather, operation of equipment, self monitoring by Hudbay.

The Climate Emergency has already brought more severe weather including very high winds to Southern Arizona. We can expect worsening conditions, not better conditions. Air pollutants generated by the mine operations and the access road will be disbursed further and in other directions. People live nearby!

Expecting pollution control equipment to operate perfectly in outdoor conditions including extreme heat, extreme precipitation, and extreme winds is not realistic. There will be equipment failures. When the equipment fails, emissions of air pollutants will occur. The heavy metal toxins are hazardous to human health. People live nearby!

Hudbay has a terrible mining industry track record. They cannot be trusted to monitor themselves. While calculating costs for damage to human health from accidental emissions may be difficult to quantify, exposure to air pollutants can cause long term harm, irreversible. Irreversible. People live nearby!

The area of the proposed mine meets Air Quality standards now. Clean air is part of the commons, part of what we all should be able to breathe. We all have to breathe to live. The profit motive for the foreign owned mining company, Hudbay, should not be more important than protecting Clean air.

As an Arizona native, I am shocked at the extent to which ADEQ is accommodating Hudbay. Observing your process for the public meetings, you scheduled them in Vail, which is 30 miles from Green Valley and 28 miles from Tucson thus assuring the most inconvenience for attendees. You have rubber stamped every permit. You seem to care little for rural Arizona, the land, the wildlife, safety. Shame on you.

This project is a disaster waiting to happen. For over ten years, through different owners and public processes, the undue risks have been clearly articulated and the widespread public opposition documented.

Do not approve the Air Quality permit.

Sincerely,
Melanie Mizell
Tucson