

Susan Husband

Good afternoon and thank you for taking my comment. I attended the public meeting on September 10 through the Zoom link. I also attended the public meeting in August in person for the water quality permit. My comment echoes so many from the September meeting. I share the concerns about windblown pollution, about air quality and the lack of monitoring by an independent third party source. Why is Hudbay allowed to be both the source of pollution and the monitor of it? The same questions were raised concerning water quality. Are there no rules that address building an open pit mine adjacent to a population area? In the case of the more historic mining areas in Arizona, such as Bisbee, Globe or Morenci the mining company built the town, but this is not the case now. Can someone start a mine in the middle of Phoenix or Tempe? What about a sulfuric acid plant, which we now learn is part of the plan?

I agree that there is a need for minerals, but the Santa Rita Mountains are not the place for this huge "Copper World". As we focus on details of the micron size of filters or the details of stacking the tailings, are there no regulations given to the wholesale destruction of an ecosystem? The Santa Rita Mountains are located in a unique ecological area and are the home to rare plants and animals, including jaguars and trogons. Why is not consideration given to these aspects of the proposed destruction? I would like to think that ADEQ has concerns for the health and well being of the residents of Arizona. Are we selling out to profit seeking companies that are not even from our own country? Please don't allow this.