

## Tom Schmidt

I have been a resident of Corona de Tucson for 20+ years. Proximity to the natural beauty of the Santa Rita Mountains was a major factor in selecting this area to live. I attended the meeting held in at the Corona Foothills Middle School on 9/8/24. ADEQ personnel were knowledgeable, patient, and willing to address questions. A couple of the key takeaways for me include the following.

1. I approached one of the ADEQ people after the meeting to ask what ADEQ's experience was with a project of this magnitude this close to population centers. The answer I received was "This project is unique (in that respect)." This leaves me to question how much that uniqueness was taken into consideration when reviewing the application for the air quality permit. Even the slightest deviation from acceptable limits will be magnified by the number of residents in close proximity to this project.

2. The subject of "fugitive dust" was explained during the meeting. Apparently, this does not require the same level of monitoring or accountability as other contaminants. Does ADEQ not care about how prolific Coccidioidomycosis (Valley Fever) is in this region?? I am particularly interested in this subject because Valley Fever was responsible for the removal of 3/4 of my left lung in 1977. I know at least one individual who lost their life due to Valley Fever. I cannot accept the fact that fugitive dust is being treated as simply the cost of doing business. Dust in our region is known to be a carrier of the Valley Fever virus and should be treated accordingly. If ADEQ does not give this more serious consideration than they appear to currently, I will assume that they have not honored their mission of protecting the people of Arizona.