

lori bryant

Dear Karen Peters,

I urge you to reject the proposed air pollution permit for Copper World mine. The current drafted permit does not protect the air or environment in any meaningful way. The mine should not receive a free pass to pollute. The construction of a massive open-pit mine in the Santa Rita Mountains would mean blasting, ore crushing, processing, and the operation of a sulfuric acid plant. These activities have the potential to release thousands of tons of toxic air pollution every year - this would threaten public health and the environment.

I am especially concerned that the permit is deficient in these areas:

- it exempts the mine from compliance during malfunctions, startups, and shutdowns. If the mine can't comply all the time, it should not receive a permit to pollute.
- It fails to require actual monitoring of emissions from all sources to ensure compliance with all limits. Monitoring **MUST** be required to ensure compliance,
- It lacks specific terms and conditions to ensure the enforceability of all emissions limits.
- it inappropriately classifies certain emissions sources, like ore processing, as "fugitive," allowing the mine to avoid more stringent permitting and pollution controls requirements.

In short, it doesn't make sure the Copper World mine will fully protect the air we breathe.

For these reasons and more, I call on you to deny the permit application.

At a minimum, 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. I urge you to hold Highbay Minerals and the Copper World mine accountable instead of giving them a free pass to pollute. Those of us who live here and love the land will be grateful.