

Stephen Yozwiak

I attended your public meeting Aug. 14 at the Corona Foothills Middle School.

About that location: You can mouth all you want about holding the event near the mine and perhaps closest to the folks most affected, but I can't help thinking that the location discouraged many Tucson-area citizens from attending. Why did you not also hold a meeting/hearing at a more central location, such as the Tucson Convention Center. I live near Oro Valley and I also will be affected by this mine. I've hiked to the top of Mount Wrightson and have seen the devastated landscapes left behind from other mining operations on the west side of I-19. When I hike Pima Canyon Trail, I'll eventually will see similar mining scars on the north side of the Santa Rita's. And when I travel to wine country, I eventually will see the mining scars on the east side of the Santa Rita's from State Route 83, a designated Scenic Byway. OK, I understand these visual blights are not within the scope of the air permit, but you've made the in-person public involvement process nearly impossible for many. Shame on you for doing that.

As for the actual Air Permit, it was clear from the public meeting that this is already a done deal. How many times did members of your team meet with the Copper World folks to craft the permit in such a way so that it would allow them the maximum flexibility to pollute and still meet the permit guidelines? Your rules have been slanted by successive Republican crafted legislative statutes and Republican administrations to ensure that no development is ever turned down. Your public meeting was just for show. The embarrassment on the part of your staff was so obvious. What a farce.

These thoughts were confirmed by the snide comments and outright laughter of the mining officials/supporters who attended your meeting as they walked from the auditorium to the parking lot.