

## David Spies

The proposed Copper World Project's air permit raises significant environmental and health concerns that must be thoroughly addressed. Allowing the construction and operation of this open-pit copper mining and ore processing facility, poses a serious threat to the local air quality. Despite the requirement for air dispersion modeling under the Arizona Minor New Source Review program, the complexity of pollutants generated by such operations—ranging from particulate matter to potentially harmful heavy metals—raises doubts about the adequacy of the modeling in fully capturing long-term impacts. Historical data shows that open-pit mining operations frequently exceed pollutant thresholds and can contribute to chronic health issues among nearby communities, including respiratory and cardiovascular problems. Moreover, the permit's reliance on projected compliance rather than demonstrated real-world performance fails to account for potential operational failures or unforeseen increases in emissions. Prioritizing immediate economic benefits, of which there will be little for Arizona, over long-term environmental and public health risks could have devastating effects on the residents of Pima County and the broader ecosystem.