

## Erin Cline

I vehemently object to the Class 2 Air Pollution Permit being issued due to a lack of comprehensive meteorological monitoring around the populated areas that will be most affected. In addition, there is a high risk of polluting the air with contaminants that over 9,000 residents breathe. More studies are needed to determine the risk the proposed mines pose to the surrounding communities that are most closely positioned to the proposed work site. There are two specific factors that have the potential to contribute to air contamination, and therefore demand further study:

1. The nighttime inversion of the Sonoran Desert is made up of a layer of cooler air that is trapped near the ground by a layer of warmer air above. This acts as a trap for dust and pollen, and has the potential to trap air contaminants as well, retaining them in the air. This poses a serious health risk for everyone, but especially those who suffer from reactive asthma and COPD. It should be further noted that the mine site is in very close proximity to Copper Ridge Elementary School, which, as of today, hosts 350 students daily, and serves a rapidly growing community. Approval of this permit will expose these children, as well as teachers, administrators, and support staff, to air toxins from the copper mining process.

2. The area surrounding the mine site is well-known for strong wind gusts, especially during the spring and monsoon season. Locals colloquially refer to these wind gusts as the "Vail Gale." These winds have the potential to carry contaminants from the mine site to thousands of surrounding homes, as well as the three schools that exist in close proximity (Copper Ridge Elementary, Sycamore Elementary, and Corona Foothills Middle School). I request that ADEQ study a meteorological report to gain a more complete understanding of the winds affecting the Vail/Corona de Tucson area to ensure that our residents and students are kept safe from contaminated air. As a current resident of the community, I request that ADEQ pay special attention to air quality concerns that the residents of Patagonia Arizona are currently contending with as a result of the South32 Hermosa Mine, as well as the air quality hazards that have been caused by the Freeport Sierrita Mine. The 2018 ADEQ violations against Asarco and Freeport, resulting in thousands of dollars in fines, should serve as a cautionary tale for us all.

Mining operations such as these should not be carried out in populated areas where residents, many of whom are children, will be exposed to the resulting contaminants. As a resident of Corona de Tucson, I oppose this permit in its entirety.

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