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I am a retired Sahuarita public school teacher and a frequent hiker in the Santa Rita Mountains.

Missing from arguments against Hudbay's mine so far is a close estimate of the number of people living within two miles of a planned tailings dump, TSF-N, which comes north from the main Copper World operation and extends to the edge of Ocotillo Preserve homes, Corona de Tucson and Sycamore Canyon. These residents' health could be affected by plumes of toxic dust in prevailing wind currents from the tailings. This is my estimate of the number of residents involved...

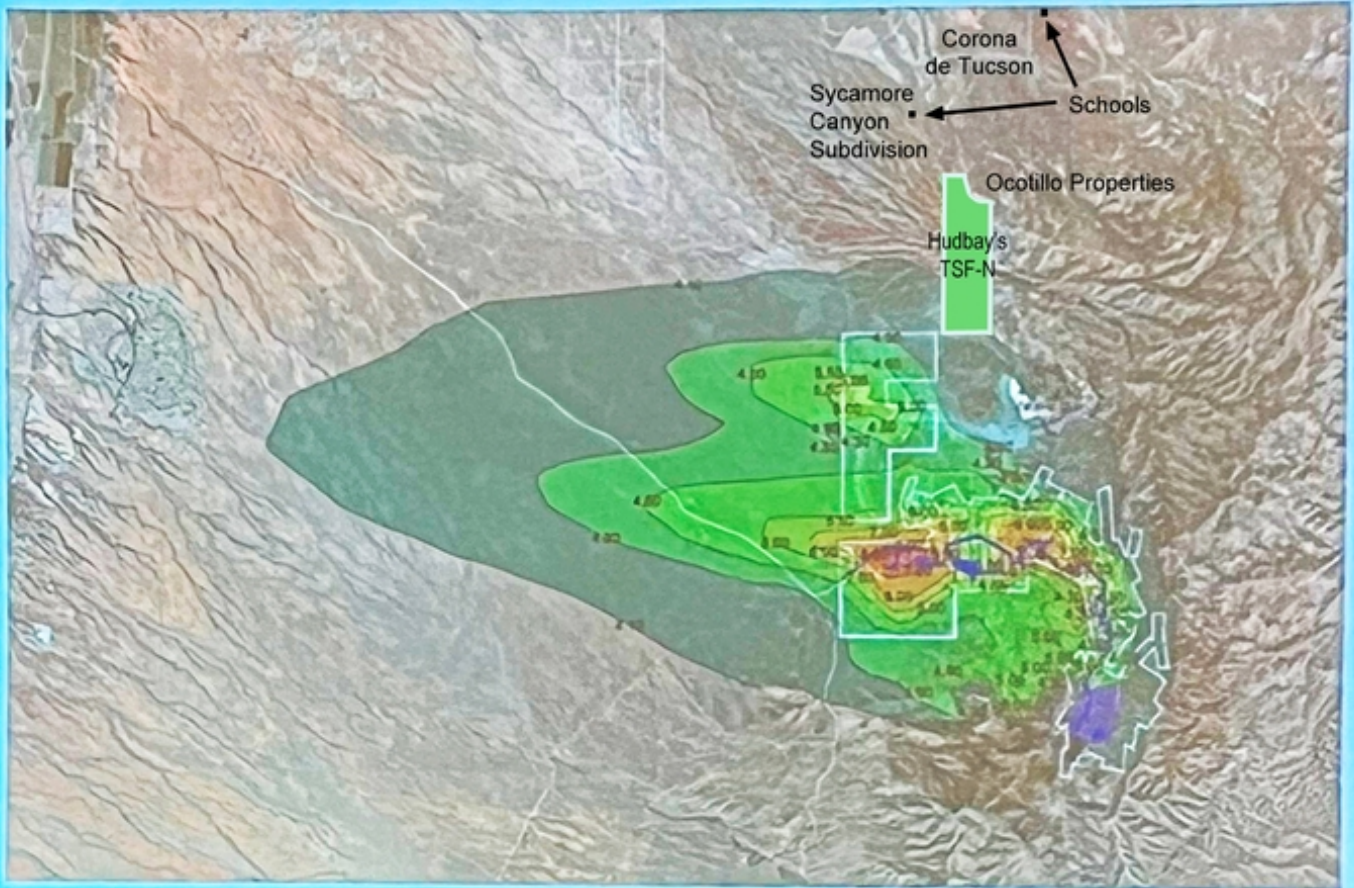
- Corona de Tucson's population is 9,600. About a third - 3,200 residents - live within 2 miles of tailings dump TSF-N.
- The Sycamore Canyon subdivision has 600 homes. The average household is 2.92, totaling 1,752 people.
- Residents of Ocotillo Preserve and some living east of Corona de Tucson add to the total number.

Therefore, the total number of people near TSF-N is about 5,000.

Most of Arizona's mines, over the last century and a half, started in sparsely populated areas, and then residential communities developed in support of successful mines (San Manuel being a case in point). Hudbay's Copper World Mine, however, is being planned in the mountain slopes above thousands of residents who moved there over the last two decades looking for open spaces, clean air, and mountain scenery. What Copper World is doing is the opposite of traditional mine development in our state. The people are already in place – the huge mine is moving in unexpectedly, almost on top of them.

A huge mine operation should not be allowed to suddenly move in and potentially affect 5,000 lives – or more.

Attached is a map that originated with ADEQ and was shared with the public at the community meeting in Vail on Aug. 14, 2024. It shows the probable location of the dust plume that will follow air currents northwest from the mining area. On Aug. 14, however, TSF-N was completely left off the map. I added this critically important northern tailings site to ADEQ's map. With TSF-N in place, it seems obvious that the dust plume will actually extend over a coverage area that should be farther north and northwest.



Total Concentration = Modeled Concentration + Background Concentration