

Shelley Semler

I strongly object to this Class 2 Air Pollution Permit being issued due to inadequate monitoring around the most affected areas, as well as the risk of introducing airborne contaminants to the air that residents and surrounding communities breathe. More research is needed to determine the potential for air contamination and potential health risks to the community due to the close proximity of the to the proposed mine site. There are two factors that could contribute to airborne contamination and require further study: The nighttime inversion of the Sonoran desert consists of a layer of cooler air is trapped near the ground by a layer of warm air above the surface. This is visible from higher elevations and essentially traps dust and pollen in the air, triggering sensitive groups such as those with reactive airways, i.e. asthma or COPD patients. If airborne contaminants were introduced, they will effectively stay in the air and become a health threat to our community. It should be given special consideration that two elementary schools (Copper Ridge Elementary and Sycamore Elementary) are in close proximity to the mine site, and over 850 children will be breathing in contaminants from the copper mining process if this permit is approved. The area surrounding the mine site exhibits notoriously strong gusts of wind (known as the Vail Gale), especially during Spring and monsoon seasons. I ask that ADEQ study a meteorological report for a more complete understanding of the winds affecting the Vail/Corona de Tucson area. Airborne contaminants from the proposed mine could easily be carried through thousands of homes, and most importantly thousands of students in the two elementary schools (Copper Ridge, Sycamore) and one middle school (Corona Foothills). If approved without further scientific study, this Class 2 Air pollution Permit is a threat to the health and safety of our community. As a resident, I ask ADEQ to pay special attention to the current air quality concerns that residents of Patagonia AZ are facing with the South32 Hermosa mine, as well as the air quality hazards caused by the Freeport Sierrita Mine. The 2018 ADEQ violations against Freeport, resulting in \$450,000 in penalties for Asarco —\$100,000 in fines and \$350,000 in contributions toward county environmental projects should serve as a warning for us all! Mining such as this should be carried out in less densely populated areas, certainly not where thousands of residents, many of whom are children, will be exposed to the contamination resulting from the mining process. As a resident of Corona de Tucson, I object to this permit in its entirety. Sincerely Shelley, Ed and James Semler