

## Thomas Schmidt

The Copper World project is an abomination on every conceivable level....other than filling the pockets of a foreign company that has no stake in the health and welfare of Pima County, or Arizona for that matter. It seems unthinkable that the Arizona Dept. of ENVIRONMENTAL Quality could grant aquifer and air permits given the close proximity of tens of thousands of residents and the fact that water is our most precious commodity, not to mention the air we breathe. Having attended the informational and comment meetings in Corona de Tucson on 8/8/24 and 9/10/24, it becomes increasingly apparent that ADEQ has not given the air permit the proper level of scrutiny and has failed in their mission to protect the welfare of AZ citizens. To base a model on low level wind events is absurd given the frequency of higher-level wind events around the Santa Rita Mountains. To allow the fox to stand guard over the hen house rather than requiring constant 3rd party air monitoring to ENSURE air quality compliance is also RIDICULOUS! As a victim of severe Valley Fever complications (3/4 of a lung removed) arising from fugitive dust, I am particularly attuned to anything that will increase the already frequent number of days the Tucson valley experiences high particulate counts from dust in suspension. At the very least, I implore ADEQ to require Class I permit application for the Hubday Copper World Project. Given the potential risks to Green Valley, Sahuarita, Corona de Tucson and other rural residents, it is my opinion that ADEQ has put Hubday's interest ahead of those whose mission it is to protect.