martha lynne

The Air Permit request by Hudbay for Copper World is alarming. This facility is 35 miles from Tucson. It is the largest planned facility in the world this close to a city of half million people. The average distance for copper mines on our planet to spew toxic waste is 35 miles. We in the SW desert are used to winds of 35mph as a regular occurrence. To think this pollution won't be a significant addition to Tucson skies is akin to believing in fairy tales. The only kind of permit that even addresses the threat Copper World poses to us is a Class I Permit under the Clean Air Act. ADEQ must require it, as the consequences on our city is in your hands. The pollution will increase respiratory disease, as we know the toxins in these released emissions do. We in Tucson are currently seeing ozone obscure our mountains from fires hundreds of miles away. We are grateful when the monsoons wash it away, and Tucson looks like we know it again. We are fortunate those fires tend to be seasonal, and more predominant during monsoon season. Indeed, the health of the Sonoran Desert dictates, by its history of evolution, that those fires occur primarily during a season they can be mitigated. A year-round bombardment of blowing mine waste can't be mitigated by our seasonal 7" of annual rain. Our unique desert city requires the geologic conditions dictated by this desert to remain healthy, beautiful, desirable to live in and visit. It affects our economy, our health, and our happiness. This desert city has much to offer; and what it offers, from food to entertainment to lifestyle and economy is overwhelmingly dependent on the health of the Sonoran Desert and its skies. Hudbay has not included Tucson in the discussion. There are no presentation meetings, no hearings, no townhall meetings in Tucson. They think they can skirt their impact on this city by claiming a lesser mine's presence with a more permissive permit. They can claim "fugitive" emissions, no accounting for releases during start-ups, shut-downs, and air spills by requesting a lesser permit from you. That permit is not appropriate for a mine the size of Copper World, utilizing half the Santa Rita mountain range, part of the Rincons, and all of the Santa Cruz River basin's water. (You can permit the water usage, but you can't keep them from using it all. Their dreams for this mine, especially with a copper bar facility equal to a smelter, will continually drain the aquifer.) My point is Hudbay plans a very large copper mine 35 miles south of this city. Everyone in Tucson deserves included in the whole process, not just in these Comments. Require them to do this. This Permit should be a Class I Permit. Require it, please.