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"For the sake of our children, our elderly, and everyone else, please require Copper World to get a more stringent Class I Permit." You can cut and paste all the comments below and enter them into the Arizona record. They are factual and generated from an in-depth analysis of air quality risks by SSSR.

Talking Points:

- The proposed mine will create mounds of tailings dust hundreds of feet high near schools and residences. Studies worldwide show that such tailings often contain toxins like lead and arsenic and typically blow 20 to 30 miles in dry and windy conditions like those near Tucson. Prevailing winds are from the west, but daily wind changes will blow toxics from east to west toward Green Valley, Sahuarita, Corona de Tucson, and all the housing developments southeast of Sahuarita. An example of dust in the air can be seen almost every morning from Green Valley when vehicles on Santa Rita Road raise dust clouds that drift across the Santa Rita Experimental Range.

Source: "Economic Impact of the Copper World Economic Impact of the Copper World/Rosemont Mine Complex," June 2024, by Power Consulting. Available on the Save the Scenic Santa Ritas website at <https://www.copperworldeconomics.com>

- Students at one school in particular, Copper Ridge Elementary (400 students and 50 staff), will be at risk from particulates that will drift into their area from the Copper World tailings piles 1 ¼ miles from the school grounds. Recent studies of tiny particulates from mines (dust and haze) show that there is virtually no safe level of exposure for young children – the smaller the particulates, the more likely children will inhale them deeply into their lungs. At the very least, Copper Ridge School (and other schools in Corona de Tucson and Vail) will need to constantly monitor air quality, plan to protect students during emergency alerts, cancel outdoor activities when necessary, train school nurses to deal with respiratory ailments, and possibly cancel classes when risks are high.

Source: "There's a spike in respiratory illness among children — and it's not just COVID," Oct. 11, 2025, by Manuela Restrepo, National Public Radio

- Copper World Mine will produce minuscule particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter. This will be perceived as dust, inhalable particles, or haze between the mountains and Sahuarita. No one disputes this. In its plans, Copper World says it will monitor and suppress minuscule toxic particulates that might drift into Green Valley and Corona de Tucson homes and schools. However, recent scientific studies show no safe "threshold" for such particulates. Adverse health effects will include:

- toxic effects from absorption of lead particulates into blood
- toxic effects from absorption of zinc and other heavy metals
- increasing respiratory symptoms, including the aggravation of asthma. Risks are highest for the elderly and young children.

Smaller, difficult-to-control particles may be more dangerous because they can be inhaled deeply into the lungs. The lifespan of the Copper World mine may last 40 years or longer. For people who live in the mine area, this will increase the likelihood of serious physical problems. Source:

Australian Government's National Pollutant Inventory, 2023, online at <https://www.npi.gov.au/.../Particulate.../destination/ALL>

- When the Copper World mine operation is established, heavy haul trucks loaded with harmful copper concentrates and possibly purified copper cathodes will almost certainly run constantly on the shortest route between the mine and the town of Sahuarita. Despite claims by Copper World

that suppressed vehicle speeds and constant watering will keep down dust clouds on dirt roads, it is not realistic to think that particulates will be fully contained in the boxes of the trucks or that spillage will be prevented. Heavy metals can contaminate land for hundreds of years.

Source: "Economic Impact of the Copper World Economic Impact of the Copper World/Rosemont Mine Complex," June 2024, by Power Consulting. Available on the Save the Scenic Santa Ritas website at <https://www.copperworldeconomics.com>

- The proposed mine will drive away unique large animals in the northern Santa Rita Mountains – jaguar, mountain lion, bobcat, black bear, coati, ringtail, and more – because of toxic dust, emissions, noise, blasting, and nighttime light. These animals' sense of smell is documented as hundreds or even thousands of times more powerful than a human's. This part of the Sky Island mountain range has been their home for thousands of years, and in a relatively few years their habitat will be gone because of the haze of toxic particulates that will drift across their home range.

Sources: "Lack of a biological assessment as required in the governing legislation" in formal comments on the Draft Aquifer Protection Permit No. P-513690 (APP) for the Copper World Project in Arizona (ADEQ, 2024) and the APP application submitted by Save the Scenic Santa Ritas (SSSR) and the 13 other organizations and Tribal Nations on April 10, 2024: referencing material submitted by Chambers, Lacher, Maest, Hart, Headley, and Pima County.

- Residents of Pima County need to be aware of the enormous piles of leftover material in the proposed Copper World Mine's tailings. This waste material - perched on the mountains above Corona de Tucson and Vail - should not be considered "gravel" or "crushed rock." Much of it will be sand and dust particles that could escape the tailings piles or pipes and then spread toxins into the landscape between the Santa Rita Mountains and communities to the west, northwest, and north.

In any open-pit mine operation, tailings must have safeguards, such as dams and liners, to keep them in check. The Copper World Mine owners have already demonstrated a willingness to cut corners with necessary protections. Downstream residents, however, deserve state-of-the-art safeguards for tailings piles that will be hundreds of feet deep.

Traces of metals such as lead, cadmium, and zinc are especially dangerous when they become airborne or flushed out of tailings, working their way down washes during storms.

Green Valley, Sahuarita, and Vail are all about 20 miles from the proposed mine site.

Sources: Topics related to "Tailings Storage Facilities," in formal comments on the Draft Aquifer Protection Permit No. P-513690 (APP) for the Copper World Project in Arizona (ADEQ, 2024) and the APP application submitted by Save the Scenic Santa Ritas (SSSR) and the 13 other organizations and Tribal Nations on April 10, 2024: referencing material submitted by Chambers, Lacher, Maest, Hart, Headley, and Pima County. 1