

Molly Shanahan

As a local farmer, I am writing to express my strong opposition to ADEQ granting a Title V air permit to Aluminum Dynamics. I am deeply concerned about the long-term environmental and public health impacts this facility could have on our community, especially when it comes to air, soil, and water pollution.

First, I disagree with the reliance on theoretical models to predict emissions. Using estimates instead of real-world data is not acceptable when the health and safety of our families, farms, and environment are at stake.

Even more troubling is the fact that Aluminum Dynamics will be self-reporting their emissions. This creates a clear conflict of interest. I urge ADEQ to require an independent third-party to monitor emissions and ensure accurate, transparent reporting. The public deserves confidence that emissions data is trustworthy and not influenced by corporate interests.

I also want to bring attention to a post I saw recently that raises serious concerns about the facility's design. At a recent city council meeting, it was revealed by a developer — and later confirmed by an Aluminum Dynamics employee — that the plant will include a 90-foot-deep melting and casting pit that will contain chemicals. The water table in this area is reportedly around 70 feet or higher, and after the recent monsoon season, it is likely even higher now. That means the bottom of this underground structure would be well below the water table, putting the aquifer at direct risk of contamination.

This area is also located on a fault line. If any structural failure occurs, it could allow hazardous chemicals to leech into our water supply. Yet, despite these facts, Aluminum Dynamics has not submitted an Aquifer Protection Permit, which should be required before this permit can even be considered.

As someone whose livelihood depends on clean air, healthy soil, and safe water, I am extremely concerned. If our local environment is compromised, our ability to farm and raise animals will be at risk. The impacts would be long-lasting and irreversible.

I respectfully ask ADEQ to deny this permit unless and until:

Independent third-party emissions monitoring is required

The company submits and is approved for an Aquifer Protection Permit

Full disclosure is made regarding all environmental and structural risks

Our community is depending on ADEQ to act in the public's interest and protect our shared natural resources. Please take this seriously — our future depends on it.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Local Farmer

Benson, AZ