

Shannon Parks

I am writing to express my strong concern regarding the proposed Aluminum Dynamics facility in Benson, Arizona. While I understand the importance of economic development, I believe this specific location is inappropriate and dangerous due to the well-documented risk of explosive reactions between aluminum and water.

The handling of molten aluminum or aluminum dust near any water source—including stormwater, process water, or condensation—can result in violent explosions, releasing hydrogen gas and ejecting molten metal. These reactions have caused major industrial accidents in other parts of the country, leading to injuries, fatalities, and environmental damage.

The fact that this plant is being proposed so close to residential neighborhoods and sensitive areas makes the risk unacceptable. The potential for an explosion or toxic release near a populated area poses a serious threat to public health and safety. Even with safety protocols in place, the risk cannot be fully eliminated, especially during extreme weather events, equipment failure, or unforeseen human error.

I urge ADEQ to reject the permit for this facility at the Benson site and to consider the long-term safety of the local population. Industrial-scale aluminum processing should not take place near homes, schools, and community infrastructure.

Thank you for your service and for considering the voices of Arizona citizens in this decision.