

Richard Samartino

I am very concerned and opposed to the permit for the Aluminum Dynamics Project. The project is projected to emit more than 52 tons of fine particulate matter per year which poses an obvious health hazard to Benson residents and especially the nursing home nearby. I am also concerned about the possibility of the emissions reaching my property; people around here depend on their land for subsistence so any pollution threatens our ability to survive. Furthermore, the plant is projected to use more than 30% of the water Benson currently uses on an annual basis. This is unacceptable considering the already-strained water resources of the region, and the threat to the San Pedro River, which is already facing declining water levels, which the plant would be located next to. Here in the Willcox basin residents' wells (including my own) have gone dry due to excessive groundwater pumping by large corporate operations. We should be preserving what little water is left in the aquifers of Arizona for residents and sustainable uses instead of another large corporate user which will exacerbate existing water shortages, emit pollutants in the air and create constant noise and disruptions for residents.