

## Brenda Zaun

Public comment regarding proposed construction/operation of Aluminum Dynamics Project in Benson, Arizona

Environmental issues of concern are not only air quality, but also water usage, water removal from the aquifer, negative effects to riparian habitat used by a multitude of native species (some protected under the ESA) due to lowering of the San Pedro River aquifer due to water pumping, and to wildlife species in immediate and outside proposed project area where air quality and residue will likely result in a negative effect.

Of all of the places to build this plant, why here? Adjacent to the San Pedro River, a jewel of a river in the southwest. One of the last undammed rivers left that supports over 250 species of birds, and other native wildlife. The riparian corridor provides crucial migratory corridors for birds, providing a "ribbon of green" where food and shelter are available. How will these trees fare with "fine particulate matter" covering the leaves, the ground, and the species who use them?

And why in the community of Benson? Where people live, breathe the air, work the land, grow cattle and other livestock for food?

Why not put this in a place away from a valuable water source and associated riparian habitat, away from people, and an appropriate distance away from anyone or anything it could harm? My initial thought was to put it at the bottom of the Lavender pit in Bisbee, Arizona, and prevent the particulates from blowing up and out (the residents there do not need more pollution/contaminants in their lives). Keep the particulates within the pit. If they are harmless, as implied in the permit, then the employees should not have a problem with it.

Has Aluminum Dynamics consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act? The consultation should account for potential effects on the aquifer, habitat, and directly to the species it may harm.

I believe the location of this plant needs to be reconsidered and relocated. Please do so.

Thank you, Brenda Zaun