

Lainie Levick

Dear Bernice Manuelito,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on Hudbay Minerals' Copper World project Draft Aquifer Protection Permit. I'm extremely concerned that the proposed design plan in this application does not adequately protect Arizona's public health, environment, and groundwater.

Hudbay Minerals' application proposes to use water to convey tailings in a slurry pipeline, operate an unlined tailings facility, leave waste-rock dumps uncovered at closure, and deploy inadequate monitoring systems. The planned processing facilities, including a heap leach using toxic chemicals for processing significant amounts of copper, will be extremely close to Tucson and Sahuarita's municipal water supplies and rural domestic wells, and could contaminate and degrade these critical water sources.

The current draft permit appears to dangerously favor the polluter at the expense of people and the environment. This is unacceptable. I request that the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality protects the state's water and public health by including the following stringent requirements in the aquifer-protection permit:

1. Hudbay Minerals must complete an economic and practical evaluation of tailings-storage facility alternatives, including a lined and dry-stacked facility, among other potential redesigns.
2. Hudbay Minerals must include the entire east pit and the headwaters of small streams near the Broadtop Butte and Copper World pits in the Pollutant Management Area for Copper World's Phase 1, to provide the best chance of detecting contaminants.
3. Hudbay Minerals must establish two additional point-of-compliance wells to ensure that the east-side aquifer isn't impaired by operations at the east pit.
4. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality must define a minimum frequency of waste-rock acid content analysis for continued operations following the first year.
5. Hudbay Minerals must submit to biannual rather than biennial monitoring of the expanded list of parameters listed in Table 20 in the APP — which will aid in detection of pollutants that may otherwise go undetected for too long and delay an investigation into the pollution and the implementation of a remedy.

Finally, I request better deployment of industry-standard technologies by Hudbay Minerals for minimizing pollution, and I ask that the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality require the additional permit conditions, requirements and agency reviews detailed in the technical comments submitted by Pima County staff to your agency on March 11, 2024.

Sincerely, Lainie Levick AZ 85749-9076