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July 7, 2008

Rosemont Copper Project EIS  
Coronado National Forest  
300 W. Congress St.  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
Attn: Beverly Everson

Dear Sir or Madam,

We own and live on 34 acres just a few miles north of the proposed Rosemont mine and are *deeply* concerned with the devastating effect that this project would have on:

- Our precious water supply – both its quantity and quality;
- Our livelihood;
- The deep serenity of our lives;
- The endangered animal and plant habitat;
- The sheer breathtaking beauty of Mount Fagan and the Santa Rita mountains from both our property and along Hwy 83; and
- Endless recreation that this area has provided us for the 33 years that we have been blessed enough to be in residence here.

We have so many concerns that we could fill many pages, but we will confine our comments to the one's that are of our most intense personal concern, since others with more technical expertise will have already brought the others to your attention.

### **Water Quantity & Quality**

- Water, water, water. On our homestead, we depend on *three* sources for all our water needs, and have utilized them all for many years and decades. The reason for three sources is that each has taken opportunity to break down and then we need the others to pull us through. We have truly learned to survive through water scarcity over these 33 years. We cringe at the thought of Augusta grabbing the Tucson valley's ***most precious resource – the water (NOT the copper!!)***.
- Our three sources of *survival water* are:
  - Our own well water (see description below),
  - Helmet Peak deliveries,

- Hauling water from Del Lago's water tank on Rinconado and Andrada roads.

Our water questions:

1. How do you plan to guarantee that the well water from *all three* of these water sources ***will not be affected by this project, either in quantity or quality***, either ***concurrently*** with operations ***or any time in the future after Augusta is long gone?***

**Our well number:** 55-634449

**Property description:** Township 17 S-Range 16 E-Sec 3  
Book 305 Map 40 Parcel 01700

2. How will injecting CAP water into the aquifer affect the quality of the water in these wells?
3. What are the contingency plans for periods of drought when both CAP water as well as ground water will be at record low levels?
4. Will Augusta Resource Corp. be required to set aside funds to take care of the water and environmental impact if they go bankrupt ***or run into hard times?***

### Toxic Chemicals

- We are very concerned about toxic chemical run-off or seepage into surface water or groundwater or being blown in dust by the wind.

1. How will you guarantee that the chemicals used by the mine or the many toxic metals and minerals that would be released from the soil or rock by the mining operation (for example but not limited to: uranium, asbestos, mercury, lead etc.) are not released into the environment causing either **human or animal health damage?**

### Air Quality

- We are very concerned about the affect on the air quality in the whole Tucson basin. The air in this area east of Tucson is amazingly clean and clear.
  1. What will the impact of this mine have on the quality of the air, in *all surrounding areas*, including Tucson?
- Federal funds come into the Tucson area that are dependent on the air quality
  2. What will the impact on these funds be from this mining operation?
- People move here because the clean environment has a positive impact on their health. A large part this positive health impact is due to the extremely pure air quality.
  3. What impact will the particulate increase have on the health of these older, already fragile people who have moved here for health reasons?
  4. What will the economic impact be on Pima County and Tucson when the people who were thinking of moving to Tucson move elsewhere when they see on the national news that the Tucson air is no better than Los Angeles or Phoenix?

5. How many people will be forced to sell their homes (at any price) and move due to the lower air quality?

### **Truck Traffic**

Our house is less than 1 mile west of Hwy 83. We sleep with our east and south windows open every night. We are very concerned that the heavy truck traffic on Hwy 83 will make living in our home unbearable. We have lived here for 33 years with the most tranquil peace and quiet.

1. How do you plan to mitigate the extreme noise pollution and air pollution that the incredibly heavy truck traffic will cause?
2. How does Augusta plan to take care of the damage they cause to Hwy 83? I hope they do not expect the taxpayers to pay for their damage.
3. Does Augusta plan or expect to widen Hwy 83?

### **Light Pollution**

It is so dark out here, that we see stars all the way down to the horizon at night. Arizona is famous worldwide for its stargazing and observatories. We take recreational walks every night. Bright lights from a mining operation would ruin all of this.

1. What would the impact be on the usefulness observatories at Kitt Peak, Tucson, Benson etc.?
2. What would be the economic impact on the loss of use of the observatories?
3. How does Augusta plan to keep the skies dark at night?

### **Animals & Plants**

We are not the only species on this planet. Every day, the planet loses more species of plants and animals. Are we to add to this list?

1. How do you plan to protect all the pineapple cactus?
2. How do you plan to catalogue and protect every endangered plant and animal in the site? There are many in that location.

### **Economic Hardship**

My 82-year-old mothers, as well as my 54-year-old mentally retarded brother, live on this property with my husband and myself. We have been depending on the value of this property to take care of her and my brother in the future. We are very fearful of the negative impact this mine would have on the value of our property.

1. What is your projected land devaluation from this mining project?

2. How do you plan to mitigate these losses that would otherwise not have occurred?
3. What would the loss to the Pima County property tax base be?
4. What other economic hardships do you expect to occur? For example, how many tourist businesses do you expect to go bankrupt as a result of this project?  
Restaurants?
5. What economic losses do you expect in Sonoita, Corona de Tucson, Patagonia, Sahuarita, Benson, Vail, Green Valley, and Tucson, Nogales, etc, etc.

**Stress Syndromes**

It is known that almost every disease starts with stress, either emotional or toxic. All the pollution concerns that we have listed are all known stressors that cause an increase in disease. Thu, there *will* be a loss of health due to the stresses put upon the residents throughout the area.


1. How do you plan to compensate those whose health is impacted by either emotional or chemical or other stressful assaults stemming from the mining operation?


**Suggestions**

- We understand that there are numerous copper mines that were closed down when the value of copper dropped. Further we are dismayed that a new mine is even being considered before the possibility of re-opening up an existing mine
  1. Why don't you choose to be a proud reflection your motto to "respect the land" and persuade the mining companies to re-open the closed mines, operate where their environmental impact would be less and where the residents would welcome them?
  2. Also, don't we have mine sites that could be re-opened that have a smelter on site? That way the ore would not have to be shipped to China. What's wrong with this picture? What am I missing here? It seems too obvious. Please clarify this.
  3. Why do we choose to tear open the earth so quickly? Why don't we take advantage and "recycle" our mines as we are being taught to recycle our bottles and cans? Wouldn't the people in those communities be more grateful?
- *We look forward to you doing the right thing and taking the:*

**NO ACTION OPTION**

Most respectfully,

  
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 Leonora Kabala

  
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 Andy Kabala