From: <u>Vogel, Mindy S -FS</u>
To: <u>Van Gilder, Margaret -FS</u>

Subject: FW: Rosemont Copper Project: A proposed mining operation

Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 7:40:30 AM



From: Karen [mailto:kcaz1@cox.net]
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2014 4:19 PM

To: Vogel, Mindy S -FS

Subject: Fw: Rosemont Copper Project: A proposed mining operation

note: I was unable to send this to the email provided (<u>southwestern-regional-office@fs.fed.us</u>). Please forward for me.

From: Karen

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2014 3:31 PM
To: CoronadoNF@RosemontEIS.us
Cc: Save the Scenic Santa Ritas

Subject: Rosemont Copper Project: A proposed mining operation

This is a formal objection to the Forest Service Final Impact Statement and Draft Record of Decision, Southwest Regional Forest Service,

Rosemont Copper Project. Jim Upchurch, Forest Supervisor.

I attended three public hearings, and voiced comments at two: 11/19/2011, 12/01/2011. In addition I submitted several written comments, including:

Impact: Visual Resources, 1/15/2012; Dark Sky Ordinance; Forest Service Mandate; Economic Impacts, 1/16/2012; Visual Impacts/Economic Impacts,

Electricity, 1/17/2012; Impacts on Recreation, 1/17/2012; Traffic; Water Resources, 1/17/2012.

I am appalled at the decision of the U.S. Forest Service to grant approval of the proposed Rosemont Mine. Many of my fellow residents joined me in

opposing this travesty. However, it appears that the agency didn't truly consider us – nor the impact this would have on our lives. Specific concerns were addressed with broad statements of mitigation. My objections are both personal and general:

Ten years ago we chose to build our million dollar dream home (yes, that's how much of my hard-earned money it cost) in Coyote Creek, Vail based on its concern for the environment, natural beauty, clear air, pure water, gorgeous views, native wildlife, peace and quiet. We never imagined that some foreign corporation would EVER be allowed to destroy ALL of that!

Our home is in the direct path of the mine's noise and air pollution- being situated just south of Saguaro National Park East. The noise would escalate my headaches to a considerable degree. My daughter suffers from asthma and her health would be imperiled by the particulates – so much so that we would likely be forced to move.

Rosemont would violate the Pima County Dark Sky Ordinance, with both particulate and light pollution befouling the air. This would obliterate our multi-million dollar astronomy infrastructure – in favor of a few hundred jobs for laborers aimed at destroying a mountain. How could this possibly be considered a good trade-off? It would be economic suicide! Southern Arizona is one of the few places on Earth with clear enough skies to allow astronomers a decent view of the heavens. I am incredulous that the Forest Service would claim that an antiquated 1890's law takes precedence over the wishes and needs of a majority of the area's residents.

Our water comes from Cienega Creek, which would be poisoned by mine chemicals and disrupted/diverted by mine tailings. There is NO mitigation enacted years from now that would correct this immediate threat. Will Rosemont provide me free potable water during the intervening years?

Bear in mind that water is Arizona's most limited and precious resource. We already must conserve and protect every drop. It would be simply unconscionable to allow ANY company to both consume and contaminate vast quantities of the ONE thing essential to life. Pima County would be forced to curtail all future growth if this project is allowed to proceed. Plus, the Colorado River is not being replenished, so sufficient CAP water is not assured. The Forest Service cannot just accept Augusta's specious assurances – thereby discounting the obvious flaws and fallacies of this plan.

Several species of flora and fauna – that are unique, imperiled, or endangered live in the area and the proposed mine would have a deleterious effect on ALL of them. Not to mention the destruction of Native American sacred sites, which could never be restored – despite any "agreements". The resulting negative impacts on tourism and recreation are

truly incalculable. How is it possible that avarice can trump this?

One reads about Peabody Coal, Rio Tinto, Shell's misadventures in Alaska, BP's gulf disaster, or Chevron's desecration of the Ecuadorean jungle,

never imagining that our own pristine backyard would be viewed as a third world country. How is it even conceivable that an entity of our own government would think it proper for an economically fragile, inexperienced outfit from Canada should come here and destroy both our land and our way of life by digging a monstrous hole, defiling both the water and air, stealing our minerals and shipping them out of the U. S. to be sold in China, AND sending the profits back to Canada? How does ANY part of this scheme benefit US? Their promised mitigations would not even happen for twenty years hence — long after they have raped the land.

Your agency is designed to protect and preserve OUR forests. This mine would do neither. It MUST be denied!

Karen Christian 8435 Tumbling X Ranch Place, Vail, Arizona, 85641 520-219-7287 kcaz1@cox.net

I have NO ability to transmit a signature.