

Pima Association of Taxpayers  
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February 13.2014

US Forest Service, Coronado National Forest,  
Nogales Ranger District, John Upchurch, FS Officer in charge

Ref: Proposed Rosemont Copper Mine

Rosemont Reviewing Officer,

The Board of Directors of the Pima Association of Taxpayers do hereby convey our continued objection to the Rosemont Mine Plan. The following concerns have been raised orally and in writing previously and also have arisen out of your final report.

First, the Forest Service report did not reveal that Forest Service employees were paid by Rosemont to do the environmental study - a fact disclosed at a small public forum by a Forest Service employee.

Second, the report did not reveal that Rosemont has refused to limit the pit size of their operation to the size they are requesting when in fact they have triple the patented mining claims adjacent to said pit. The above fact was revealed by the Tucson office of the Forest Service by a Forest Service Officer. See the attached previous letter of January 17, 2012.

The Forest Service report does however include the Rosemont claims of direct and indirect employment (only 434 direct employees), but does not include the following negatives deemed by the Forest Service to not be in their purview to analyze.

1. The fact that a foreign company will be taking both the profits and the product out of our county and will pay no royalties for doing so.

2. The fact that the tourist industry in our area will likely be the loser in the long run. Tucson is nestled between two sections of a National Park (Saguaro). However, State Route 83 adjacent to the proposed mine is a designated State Scenic Highway and is the route to Arizona's wine country. The report only speculates as to whether a huge pit that would be over one mile wide and over on half mile deep with several miles of a mine tailings dump would damage the scenic element of that roadway.

Another concern is that there appears to be no scale or baseline above which the environmental damage done would preclude the mine - only the assertion by the Forest Service that apparently they have no real authority to say no to the mine.

The report also appears to indicate that if the mine should go forward the Forest Service employees who would monitor the mineral and biological impacts of the mine would also be paid by Rosemont. If that be true that would appear to be a clear conflict of interest.


Yet another question not broached in the report was the following. What law gives citizens and corporations of foreign countries the authority to acquired patented mining claims to American mineral assets? If there is such a law it does not appear to be in the best interest of the American people and should be retroactively rescinded.

Finally, since there are evidently no more rich copper ore bodies in the US that can be mined underground our country should not be granting mining rights to foreign companies to exploit low grade ore bodies using massive excavation methods with the product being shipped to foreign countries as Rosemont has announced. Those low grades ore bodies should be held in reserve to be exploited only in the interest of National need or security if a shortage of that mineral should occur.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. It is hoped that the above concerns are deemed of sufficient merit to reverse your decision and recommend no action. If that can not be done at your level then please refer this matter to that level at which action can be taken, whether that be the Federal EPA, the US Department of Agriculture, or the Office of the President. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Richard Basye President, Pima Association of Taxpayers

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Basye", is written over a horizontal line.

Copy San Francisco EPA, Region 9  
SF California 94105

Copy Bill Vilsack, US Department of Agriculture  
Washington D.C., 2250