

TO Reviewing Officer
 USFS Southwest Region
 333 Broadway SE
 Albuquerque, NM 87102

FROM Donald Weinstein
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RE Rosemont Copper Project

We hereby submit a formal objection to the proposed Rosemont Copper project in the Coronado National Forest, Nogales Ranger District. The responsible official is Jim Upchurch.

Not only does the FEIS fail to adequately address the objections made in the initial comment period, but new and important information, some contained in the FEIS and some more recently available make imperative the completion of a revised DEIS with opportunities for public input.

1. While we continue to object to the failure to assess adequately the impact of the daily traffic of mine trucks from the entry/exit of the mine site on Highway 83 and thence to the I-10 Freeway (objections largely ignored or minimized in the FEIS), new disturbing information has only recently been made public. A few days ago Rosemont Copper announced that if the mine is permitted, ore-laden trucks will travel *south* on Scenic Highway 83 and then onto Scenic Highway 82 carrying the ore through the main street of Patagonia, down through the rock fall area, through the city of Nogales, to the Mexican border. This means that the entire length of the two scenic highways will be invested with huge mine ore trucks twenty four hours every day. In either case the impact of this traffic on the highways themselves, not built for such traffic, on the health and safety of the citizenry, whose literal lifeline these highways are, and on the economic livelihoods of Patagonia and Sonoita will be no less than devastating. Local and long range commuting as well as tourist and recreational traffic will be constantly disrupted, and the entire character of the region of Sonoita and Patagonia will be transformed. The area represents a primary recreational resource for all the surrounding urban areas, including Tucson, a large city and less directly Phoenix, a

much larger one. Moreover, visitors come from the world over to visit the area.

2. The FEIS report treats the project almost in isolation by making the boundaries of impact absurdly small and thereby fails to measure the total cost to the entire area. And the developing mining projects around Patagonia will be treated in the same way. The FEIS tells us that there is *new* information to deal with our previous objections over impact on air, on water, on biologic resources etc. but precisely because this information, most of it highly technical, *is* new and no analysis has been made of it except by those with a stake in Rosemont (and because of its perceived mandate, the Forest Service must unfortunately be included in that group), how can the citizens adequately comment? A revised DEIS is the only means.

3. The FEIS report came too soon for comment on the latest crisis in the area--water--although the danger has long been apparent and water shortages were mentioned as a real possibility by many earlier commenters, although never taken seriously by Rosemont or by the DEIS or the FEIS. (On the other hand our Sonoita well must make its claims against those of Indian tribes on the *Gila*!) Only in the last few weeks estimates of the effect of water consumption on the Colorado River basin have been raised to alarm levels and questions about allocation of that water have become paramount. A severe, dangerous and contentious water crisis is in the making. This crisis alone should be enough to convince the FS and all other government agencies that the Rosemont Mine project must be abandoned.

The entire proposal, the FEIS and the mine which FEIS is supporting is a travesty.

Sincerely yours,

Beverly J. Parker
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