NEPA Forecast Report
February 23, 2017

APPROACHING DEADLINES (NEXT 2 WEEKS)

Nothing to report

MONITORING (Projects Either Meet or Potentially Meet Elevation Criteria)

1. Potential and Prior Adverse Ratings on Draft EISs:

Unrelated/Unresponsive

R9/Forest Service/Record of Decision/ Rosemont Mine/Potential Referral of Adverse Rating: The EIS is for a proposed new, open-pit copper and molybdenum 4800 acre mine to be constructed mostly on USFS National Forest Land southwest of Tucson. If the Rosemont Mine is brought into production, it would be one of the largest U.S. copper mines. EPA rated the draft EIS as "EU-3" (Environmentally Unsatisfactory – Inadequate Information). The major concerns outlined in our DEIS comment letter are regarding: water quality, quantity and habitat (wetlands) ARNI designations (Davisidson Canyon Wash and Cienega Creek), impacts to air quality, tribal and cultural resources, biological resources, and human health. Upon review of the FEIS, EPA determined that the issues underlying its "environmentally unsatisfactory" rating had not been resolved; Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

discussions toward this end. On December 28, 2016, the Corps sent a letter to the applicant to signal the Corps intent to not authorize a 404 permit for the current proposal. The key factors identified by the District that support a permit denial are determinations that the proposed Rosemont Mine will cause or contribute to violations of state water quality standards, significant degradation of waters of the US and degradation, and that the proposed minimization and mitigation measures were inadequate. In addition, the Corps concluded that implementation of the proposed project would be contrary to the public interest due to concerns there are adverse effects to cultural resources and traditional cultural properties important to tribes.

Unrelated/Unresponsive

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2. FEIS Letters that Characterize Residual Serious Concerns:

Nothing to Report

3. Potential Regional Controversy, Significant Media Attention, or Congressional/State Concerns:

Unrelated/Unresponsive

4. Policy or Precedent Setting Comments:

Nothing to Report

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