Rosemont Mine Briefing

July 12,2018

Short Synopsis

- Hudbay Minerals, Inc., a Canadian company, has proposed a new open-pit copper and molybdenum mine on 5,000 acres southeast of Tucson, Arizona, including 3,655 acres of National Forest land.
- Environmental documents for the proposed mine indicate that it will:
  - adversely affect water supply in a 60,000-acre area with ~800 wells, impacting farmers, tribes, and municipalities;
  - permanently fill or significantly degrade high quality streams and wetland ecosystems and result in the pollution of state-designated "Outstanding National Resource Waters" with heavy metals;
  - adversely affect 12 federally listed threatened or endangered species, impacting 40-60,000-acres of habitat;
  - destroy an area sacred to the Tohono O'odham Nation, disturbing over 100 prehistoric and historic cultural sites, of which over 1/3 are known to contain human burials.
- Next Steps: The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) must decide whether to issue a CWA § 404 permit. In 2016, the local USACE office recommended denial of the permit based on the above impacts; that decision has been elevated to USACE's regional office.
  - Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Stakeholders

- Support: Arizona Governor Doug Ducey; Chamber of Commerce; mining industry.
- Oppose: Pima and Santa Cruz Counties; City of Tucson, Towns of Patagonia and Sahuarita; farmers and other community members; Congressman Raul Grijalva; Tohono O'odham Nation and 9 other tribes.
  - In April 2018, Tohono O'odham Nation and other tribes filed a complaint in federal district court challenging the Forest Service's approval of the mine.

EPA's Role under CWA § 404 and NEPA

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

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