

U.S. FOREST SERVICE
PROPOSED ROSEMONT COPPER PROJECT
SCOPING HEARING

ELGIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA
23 ELGIN ROAD, ELGIN, ARIZONA
May 12, 2008
6:00 P.M.

REPORTED BY: OLIVIA ARMENTA, RPR, CR No. 50411

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1 THE MODERATOR: Again, I would like to
2 welcome everybody this evening. We appreciate you having
3 taken time out of your busy day to participate in today's
4 Public Hearing for the Proposed Rosemont Copper Mine
5 Project.

6 My name is Sue Lewin, and I will be serving
7 as your moderator today. I'm an independent consultant
8 from Maricopa County -- don't yell at me -- and I'm an
9 objective third-party who is not working directly on the
10 project.

11 And the U.S. Forest Service is very
12 interested in hearing from you today, and recording your
13 comments for consideration in the Draft Environmental
14 Impact Statement, which is the official environmental
15 document for this project.

16 We will begin the meeting with
17 introductions and some brief presentations by Forest
18 personnel. The remainder of the meeting will be devoted
19 to listening and recording your comments. If you wish to
20 speak tonight, and have not already done so, you will
21 need to complete a speaker card. And hold it up, and one
22 of our team members will collect it from you.

23 Also, after tonight's meeting, there will
24 be two more opportunities to provide comments on the
25 Proposed Project. The Forest Service is planning

1 additional meetings. Right now the dates -- the working
2 dates are Saturday, January 7th, during the day -- I'm
3 sorry, June 7th. January? June 7th, and the evening of
4 June 30th. The locations have not been contracted yet,
5 so those are just working dates right now. Those will be
6 announced.

7 And tonight we have with us from the U.S.
8 Forest Service the following people, Jeanine Derby, Reta
9 Laford -- can we have them stand -- Teresa Ann Ciapusci,
10 John Able, Faye Fentiman, and Keith Graves. And they are
11 going to be listening very intently to all your comments.
12 And then we also have with us members of the
13 Environmental Consulting Team that is working for the
14 U.S. Forest Service on this project.

15 And I'd like to now turn the microphone
16 over to Teresa Ann Ciapusci, who will be providing an
17 overview of the National Environmental Policy Act process
18 that the Forest Service is mandated to use for this
19 project.

20 MS. CIAPUSCI: Good evening. Well, as Sue
21 introduced, I'm Teresa Ann Ciapusci. I'm the Ecosystem
22 Management and Planning Staff Officer here on the forest.
23 And my job overall is to assure that all of the
24 environmental documentation that we do for any project on
25 the forest gets done within the regulations stipulated by

1 law and Forest Service policy.

2 So a little bit on the National
3 Environmental Policy Act, or as it's commonly referred to
4 as NEPA, which is the acronym N-E-P-A. NEPA was enacted
5 by Congress as a means to ensure the Federal
6 decision-making processes include the public, that they
7 provide informed information to the decision-maker before
8 a decision gets made. And that the decision-maker has an
9 opportunity to adequately consider any environmental
10 impacts that could arise from the decision that they are
11 making. And those impacts could be physical, biological,
12 social, or economic. So it hits the whole spectrum.

13 It's a Policy Act, it is not a Regulatory
14 Act. It does not set substantive standards. And it
15 doesn't include any enforcement mechanisms above and
16 beyond what Agency discretion already allows, or which
17 the Courts have put with the law through case law and
18 other rulings from the Court. But what it does do for us
19 is it provides the decision-maker with a very flexible
20 planning process, and allows them to gather and distill
21 the information to make an informed and rationed
22 decision.

23 It has three purposes. It declares a
24 national policy of environmental consideration. It sets
25 out procedural requirements that each Federal agency must

1 obey. And then it allows the agencies to also add their
2 own additional regulation within that. And finally, it
3 created the Council on Environmental Quality, which is an
4 oversight process within the Federal Government for the
5 law.

6 The proposal before us tonight from the
7 Rosemont Mining Company is subject to an environmental
8 review process under NEPA because part of it would occur
9 on Federal land. And we were given a Proposed Action
10 from the company, which we have accepted for review now.
11 We have deemed it to be available for review. And this
12 process goes then through various steps, and the very
13 broad overview there are six steps.

14 One is receipt of the proposal, which is
15 followed by scoping. That's what we're doing tonight.
16 Scoping means that we are collecting information. We're
17 collecting concerns and ideas about the proposal, and
18 about what potential impacts it could have. And we are
19 looking to find out who the interested parties are, and
20 we are looking to understand your concerns, and make sure
21 that we have an adequate amount of data to do the
22 analysis with, and to know where our data gaps might
23 exist so we can find sources to fill those.

24 The next step that happens after scoping is
25 we will publish a document called Environmental Impact

1 Statement. And it will be a Draft Environmental Impact
2 Statement, which will go out both internally within the
3 agencies and to all of you for review. And the point of
4 that review is to refine that analysis to tell us
5 anything that might need a little more tweaking, a little
6 more fixing.

7 And once we do that, we will then publish
8 what's called a Final Environmental Impact Statement.
9 From that document the decision-maker, in this case
10 Jeanine Derby, will make a decision. And after she has
11 made her decision, she will publish a third document
12 called a Record of Decision, in which she will tell you
13 what her decision is and the rationale behind her
14 decision.

15 That Record of Decision also comes with
16 another whole process that I'm not going to go into
17 tonight, called an Administrative Review Process. Some
18 of you may know that as our Appeals Process. And it does
19 give one more opportunity at that point to be involved in
20 reviewing that decision and the rationale behind it.

21 What we're doing tonight is called a Public
22 Scoping Hearing. And that word hearing is very important
23 here. We are here to listen and hear what you want to
24 tell us. While giving us written comments gives us a lot
25 of information, those written comments don't always

1 translate the emotion and the passion that come behind
2 those comments. And that's what we're here to hear
3 tonight, and in the next two Public Hearings.

4 The Review Process for the comments is
5 detailed in the handout that we presented you on Page 3.
6 The top portion of the handout on Page 3 tells you what
7 kind of comments are most helpful to us when you present
8 your comments either orally or in writing. And the lower
9 portion tells you what we do with those comments in the
10 Draft Environmental Process, so that you know how we're
11 going to use what you're going to give us tonight. And
12 so if you could look at that handout, that will give you
13 that information.

14 The final piece that I wanted to cover is
15 to let you know that the Forest Service is working
16 through the process to invite cooperating agencies.
17 Those are other Federal, State, and other local
18 government agencies which may have jurisdictional
19 decisions to make as part of this process. They may have
20 expertise that we don't happen to have on the forest, and
21 they can provide expertise that that supplements our
22 skill base, and that they will assist us in a complete
23 and thorough review of the environmental impacts, again,
24 the physical, biological, the social, and the economic
25 impacts that could arise from this proposal.

1 And then finally, in the near future, the
2 Forest Service will be identifying opportunities to
3 collaborate with one or more working groups that will
4 help us in filling information and data gaps, and will
5 provide us additional insight into how this proposal may
6 affect the communities that would be involved. Thank
7 you.

8 And at this time I'm going to invite up
9 Reta Laford, our Deputy Forest Supervisor, and she's
10 going to cover the Proposed Action for you.

11 MS. LAFORD: Hi, I'm Reta Laford. I'm the
12 Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Coronado. I'm glad to
13 see many faces that I recognize from one of our Open
14 Houses, or more of our Open Houses. I don't remember all
15 your names, I apologize.

16 I hope you had an opportunity to review the
17 information you gathered at the Open Houses, as well as
18 on our website. Our website, for those who are
19 interested, information will continue to be available.
20 That is www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/rosemont.

21 Now since we've heard that the web service
22 in the local area may not be ideal, we have taken the
23 Proposed Action and put it on a DVD. And when you signed
24 in tonight, you had a choice to indicate if you were
25 interested in a DVD or a CD of that. The DVD's are

1 available here on site.

2 But do note, it is a DVD, not a CD. Some
3 computers cannot read DVD's. And to address that, we are
4 in the process of making a CD set for people who would
5 prefer the Proposed Action on a CD. And again, that's
6 when you signed in, you indicated such, or you can go
7 back to the table at a break and indicate you'd like one.
8 And we'll get those CD requests mailed out.

9 Okay. I'd like to take a minute and
10 briefly describe the Proposed Action. The Proposed
11 Action is to construct an open-pit mine in the Santa Rita
12 Mountains, 30 miles south of Tucson, as displayed in the
13 poster boards in the back and in the material you can
14 gather at the sign-in.

15 The Project would consist of approximately
16 4,400 acres, about 1,000 of which would be on private
17 land owned by Rosemont Company, 3,300 acres would be on
18 Forest Service administered lands, 75 acres on Arizona
19 Trust land, and 15 acres on land administered by BLM.
20 Most of the pit area would be on the privately owned
21 land. The majority of support facilities, waste rock,
22 and tailings, would be on lands administered by the
23 Forest Service.

24 Mining would be for metals, including
25 copper, molybdenum, and silver. Annual production

1 estimates are approximately 230 million pounds of copper,
2 5 million pounds of molybdenum, and 3.5 million ounces of
3 silver over a 19-year production span.

4 There are two types of ore present, and
5 they are processed differently. There is sulfide ore and
6 oxide ore. Sulfide ore would be processed by crushing
7 and grinding, and concentrating it with reagents. The
8 waste material from this processing would be deposited in
9 the tailings storage area. Oxide ore would be processed
10 using what's called a heap-leaching and solvent
11 extraction electrowining.

12 And if there's not mining experts out
13 there, what that means is this would be done by placing
14 the oxide ore on a lined leach pad, and irrigating it
15 with acidic solution. The solution is then collected and
16 sent to an on-site plant, where it is plated into high
17 quality copper plates. Both the solid concentrates and
18 the high quality copper plates would be transported
19 off-site using trucks.

20 Waste rock and tailings, the waste rock
21 storage, tailing placement, leach pad, and milling would
22 primarily be on lands by the forest located to the east
23 of the pit area. And again, that's displayed on the maps
24 in the back and in the summary handed out at the
25 information table.

1 Access, the primary access for the Proposed
2 Action would be from State Route 83, between Milepost 46
3 and 47. It would be about four miles in length. A
4 possible secondary access road is proposed from the west
5 side of the property near Gunsight Pass.

6 Electricity, the main electrical power to
7 supply the mine would enter the property from the west
8 and east. Additionally, passive solar technology would
9 be used to generate some on-site electricity.

10 Water, mine processing water would be
11 pumped from wells on land owned by the Rosemont Copper
12 Company, located within the Santa Cruz sub-basin of the
13 Tucson Active Management Area groundwater basin near
14 Sahuarita. It is estimated that the mine and support
15 facilities would need 5,000 acre-feet of water annually.

16 Reclamation, reclamation such as waste rock
17 and tailing recontouring and revegetation would occur
18 concurrent with mining and processing activities. As the
19 operation progresses, leach fields would be closed and
20 buried within the rock storage -- waste rock storage
21 areas. Reclamation and revegetation would be insured
22 through bonding. And most build and operating facilities
23 would be removed.

24 So there's a layman's summary of the
25 Proposed Action. Additional information is in the

1 material summary that you can pick up as a handout, as
2 well as on the DVD or CD set we are making availablem and
3 online.

4 And with that, I'll turn it back to the
5 Moderator.

6 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Reta.

7 And for those of you who just joined us,
8 I'm Sue Lewin, and I am your independent moderator this
9 evening.

10 We have quite a few people standing in the
11 back of the room. If you have a seat open next to you,
12 would you please raise your hand so we can get some folks
13 seated here? It's going to be a long hearing, so we're
14 going to want to try to get as many people seated as
15 possible. Thank you. And the other housekeeping item is
16 the restrooms are to the left of that table there.

17 Now as we mentioned earlier, anyone who
18 wishes to speak tonight before our Forest Service
19 audience and the audience at large will need to fill out
20 a speaker card and submit it to a Project Team Member.
21 If you fill out a card, you can either raise your hand or
22 you can turn it in at the sign-in table.

23 And I've got a stack of cards in my hands
24 now. So we're going to be starting the hearing portion
25 very shortly here. Now each person that fills out a

1 speaker card will have three minutes to speak. It's
2 necessary for us to limit the time because, as you can
3 see, we have a full room here, and we want to give
4 everybody an opportunity to provide comments.

5 We have a court stenographer here, Olivia,
6 is over in the corner here. And she's going to be
7 recording all comments, and those will be considered in
8 the preparation of the Environmental document.

9 Our Forest Service representatives will not
10 be taking time during tonight's meeting for an open
11 question and answer period. The reason for that is a lot
12 of the questions that you will be asking are things that
13 are still under study, and they won't likely have all the
14 answers to them. And also, it would make this hearing a
15 lot longer.

16 So as we said, any questions, any comments,
17 will be recorded by the stenographer, and they will be
18 factored into the preparation of the Environmental
19 document. And if the same question is asked by more than
20 one person, that question will be answered only one time
21 in the Environmental document. That document will be
22 available upon completion. It will be available for
23 public review and also for further public input.

24 And also, we wanted to let you know,
25 somebody asked us earlier, will the audio transcript of

1 tonight's hearing be available. And yes, the Forest
2 Service will look into making that available, not only
3 the audio hearing, but also also making available copies
4 of the stenographer's report.

5 And let's see here. Oh, another thing I
6 must mention is the fact that Forest Service personnel
7 must leave this evening by 10 o'clock p.m. in order to
8 have a safe drive home. The consultant team will stay
9 until 11 o'clock, and we will continue to hear comments
10 and record them. And then we will be ending the hearing
11 by 11:00 p.m.

12 And we will be having a timer. Teresa Ann
13 has volunteered to serve as our timer this evening. And
14 she will start the three-minute time period as soon as
15 each speaker starts speaking. And when the 30-second
16 warning, she will be holding up this sign to the speaker.
17 And then she will be flipping the sign and letting each
18 individual know when their three minutes are complete.

19 In the event that a speaker continues
20 extensively past that three-minute period, or uses
21 profanity or inappropriate behavior, we do reserve the
22 right to turn off the microphone. We appreciate
23 everybody being courteous and listening, and in being
24 still while other people are speaking so as not to
25 distract the speaker or the stenographer.

1 And I will be holding up the speaker cards.
2 We will be calling the speakers' names in groups of three
3 in the order in which we received the cards. So we're
4 going to have a speaker cue, we'll have one person up at
5 the podium, and the other two standing off to the side.
6 And we'll try to keep the speakers going. We are going
7 to take a ten-minute break every 60 minutes so that we
8 can -- the speaker -- the -- our court stenographer can
9 rest her hands there, and everybody can take a little
10 break.

11 And I would like to thank everybody --
12 everybody in advance for being courteous listeners while
13 your neighbors and friends are speaking. And we also
14 have some special guests here tonight. We have
15 Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and her staff are here
16 as our honored guests.

17 And we will now begin the hearing. And our
18 first speaker is Congresswoman Giffords.

19 And, Congresswoman, before we start, we do
20 want to call the next two speakers, Rod Pace and Cheryl
21 Rennie, will be waiting. Thank you very much.

22 CONGRESSWOMAN GIFFORDS: And I may, and if
23 you'll forgive me for an additional 30 seconds. I just
24 want to tell you how grateful I am to see such a great
25 crowd out tonight. Thank the Forest Service for the

1 first of three public opportunities to talk about the
2 Proposed Rosemont Mine.

3 This is a technically, very complex issue,
4 and it's an emotionally charged issue. So it's critical
5 that the review process be transparent and fully open to
6 public input.

7 These meetings are a critical part of the
8 Scoping Process. And I came here tonight to emphasize
9 the importance of listening to members of the community
10 about the Proposed Mining Operation.

11 The Proposed Mine raises a myriad of
12 questions ranging from environmental concerns to
13 community concerns. And I believe that the views of the
14 residents have to be considered. So tonight is the first
15 opportunity to hear from the public, and I welcome it.

16 I commend the Forest Service for extending
17 the Scoping Process from 30 days to 120 days. Thank you.
18 An undertaking of this significance requires sufficient
19 time for all the issues to be identified before the
20 Environmental Impact Statement, or the EIS, is prepared,
21 and 30 days simply was not long enough.

22 Additionally, it's important that the
23 community and every relevant agency be included in the
24 review of all aspects of the impact this Proposed Mine
25 will have on the area and on its residents.

1 The Forest Service has made the right
2 decision to establish work groups to participate in the
3 review of the analysis that's going to be identified
4 through the EIS. The involvement of citizens and agency
5 experts will be critical to the credibility of the
6 process.

7 So I urge the Forest Service to move as
8 quickly as possible to establish these work groups, to
9 ensure that membership is diverse, and that we will truly
10 have a representative voice from the community that will
11 speak to how the mine will affect their way of life and
12 the community in which we live.

13 Now to have maximum benefit from these work
14 groups, they should be brought into the process, in my
15 opinion, during the Scoping Process so we get all the
16 voices at the table as soon as possible. These work
17 groups will further enhance the credibility of the
18 Scoping Process, and will show the community that their
19 interests will be -- continue to be considered as the
20 EIS's are reviewed.

21 We know that hard rock mines and hard rock
22 minerals provide essential components to our lives, from
23 the vehicles we drive, to the technology that we use, to
24 the electronics and computers. But not just additionally
25 these minerals, we know that good jobs and economic

1 opportunities have come with mining.

2 But here in Arizona, known as the Copper
3 State, we've also had a negative legacy with mining, as
4 well, and we can't ignore that fact. In Southern Arizona
5 we know that negative impacts have affected our
6 community, and they have to be taken into consideration.

7 So the Scoping Process, which is now
8 underway, must ensure that all potential impacts of the
9 mine must be identified and properly analyzed.

10 I have a list of questions that I'm going
11 to leave here ranging from water, air pollution, noise
12 pollution, safety, energy needs, roads, economic impacts,
13 restoration. I'm sure you're going to hear a lot about
14 this from the public tonight.

15 Again, just to ensure that the EIS covers
16 all the relevant questions and concerns, I want to
17 reiterate that the Forest Service should work with
18 working groups, pull the community together,
19 accountability is everything. And I want to thank
20 everyone for being here tonight. Thank you.

21 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much.

22 Rod Pace.

23 MR. PACE: Hi, my name is Rod Pace. I'm
24 the general manager for Rosemont Mining. I've been at
25 all the Open Houses to listen to what you have to say.

1 I'm here tonight again to listen to what everybody has to
2 say.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Louder.

4 THE MODERATOR: Can you speak up closer to
5 the microphone?

6 MR. PACE: I'm sorry, can you hear better
7 now?

8 THE MODERATOR: You can lift it up.

9 MR. PACE: Okay. Is that better? Sorry
10 about that. I'll start over again. I can do this in 90
11 seconds.

12 Hello, my name is Rod Pace. I'm the
13 general manager for Rosemont Mining. I've met a lot of
14 you guys at other Open Houses we've had. In fact, I've
15 been at every open house to listen to what everybody has
16 to say. And that's the reason I'm here tonight, too, is
17 to listen to what all of you have to say.

18 In addition, I'd like to point out a few of
19 the key benefits the Rosemont Mine will bring. Number
20 one, it will employ 500 people directly, with an average
21 salary of around \$60,000 per year. Indirectly, that will
22 account for another 1200 jobs for contractors and
23 suppliers. So total employment will be around, for this
24 area, about 1700 people. So that relates to about for
25 this area about \$250 million in revenue. And that comes

1 in the form of salaries. It comes in the form of
2 supplies and materials for the mine, but an annual base
3 of about \$250 million.

4 The mine is -- we're looking at designing
5 it in environmentally sound practices. And that will
6 include things like we're planning on using a dry stack
7 tailings, which results in about 50 percent less water
8 use than a conventional mine.

9 Other things we're looking at include
10 recharging the aquifer for the water we take out. Our
11 plan -- we're committed to putting 100 percent of the
12 water back into the aquifer that we take out of the
13 aquifer.

14 Topsoil conservation, we're looking at
15 conserving topsoil to put back on the slopes as we
16 regrade them. We're looking at regrading the slopes, 3:1
17 slopes, so that we can establish vegetation easier.

18 Other things we're looking at is we're
19 using modern equipment. We're looking at using things
20 like -- in the haul trucks we're putting in TR2 engines,
21 which meet all the pollution standards for the State of
22 California, which is one of the most strict states for
23 air pollution.

24 We're also using computerized technology,
25 so we do things right the first time. We know how to

1 grade, we know how to put our material back, we know how
2 to dig in right at locations.

3 So there's a lot of things that have
4 changed in mining since the old mines were developed back
5 in Arizona 40 or 50 years ago. And we just want to work
6 with everybody here to do the best we can and make this a
7 state-of-the-art mine. So I think you for your time
8 today, and I'm here to listen to you.

9 THE MODERATOR: Cheryl Rennie.

10 MS. RENNIE: I'm Cheryl Rennie. I'm a
11 resident of Sonoita. History teaches us not only that
12 things can go bad with rock mining companies, but when
13 they do, the damage cannot be mitigated, and the costs
14 can be enormous.

15 In the past 20 years at least 15
16 state-of-the-art mines have gone bankrupt, leaving
17 taxpayers with massive environmental destruction and
18 potential cleanup liability exceeding \$12 billion.

19 To address this issue the United States
20 Forest Service put out an updated guide in April of 2004
21 that explains the requirements for reclamation bonds
22 prior to approval of Mining Plans of Operations. Having
23 done a cursory review of Rosemont Bond estimations, some
24 underestimates and omissions have caught my attention.

25 For instance, in determining hourly

1 operating costs, a diesel fuel price of \$3.20 per gallon
2 was used. That number is grossly inadequate since the
3 current price of diesel is well over \$4 per gallon and
4 rising. It is recognized that the number was probably
5 accurate when the report was written, but it is an
6 example of how quickly costs can rise with the impact of
7 inflation. This is an early warning of how inflationary
8 factors in the marketplace will generally increase the
9 cost of reclamation over time.

10 The Forest Service Bond Guidance Manual
11 states the trend of inflation, as well as current market
12 indicators, should be considered when determining a
13 reasonable inflation rate. The larger issue here is that
14 the Rosemont bond estimates did not reflect any
15 adjustment for inflation or describe economic outlooks.

16 How does this underestimate --
17 understatement of diesel costs impact the reclamation and
18 costs of this project? What other costs may be
19 understated due to inflation? Inflationary impacts could
20 significantly erode bond value and put the whole project
21 at risk.

22 Furthermore, another issue that was not
23 addressed in the bonding section of Rosemont's Mining
24 Plan of Operations was the kind of bonds that will be
25 issued. For instance, is it a liquid bond instrument,

1 such as cash, certificate of deposit, or letter of credit
2 that will be readily available, or are they surety bonds
3 that can take up to a year or two before they're secured?

4 Even though it is recognized that the
5 Forest Service will dictate these issues, it seems
6 prudent that this information should be included for
7 economic impact as the project proceeds.

8 Hazardous materials are innocuously labeled
9 products by Rosemont, until they are placed in operation,
10 and no mitigation costs have been estimated for hazardous
11 spills. In fact, no mitigation of any kind has been
12 addressed. I guess that means that we can all breathe a
13 sigh of relief. If there is a sulfuric acid spill, it is
14 not hazardous as long as it is not yet placed in
15 operation.

16 My time is up, I have a lot of questions
17 I'm going to be submitting. But I would just like to
18 formally request that as very significant stakeholders,
19 we be kept informed of the bonding requirements so that
20 we can exercise our rights through the Forest Service
21 Appeal Process, 36 CFR 251 --

22 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much.

23 MS. RENNIE: -- if type of bond instruments
24 and estimates are deemed inadequate. Thank you.

25 THE MODERATOR: Our next three speakers are

1 Tim Storer, Don Byron, and Dinah Bean. And please state
2 your name for the court reporter. Thank you.

3 MR. STORER: My name is Tim Storer, and I'm
4 in the process of moving to Sonoita.

5 THE MODERATOR: Can we hear?

6 MR. STORER: Sorry. Tim Storer, and I'm in
7 the process of moving to Sonoita, but after seeing the
8 Rosemont Proposal I'm starting to have second thoughts.
9 And I'm not the only one, of course.

10 My realtor told me the other day that some
11 of her clients have already backed off of wanting to live
12 here. And a number of -- and a member of a bicycle group
13 told her that they would no longer ride the scenic
14 highway since it probably won't be there due to the
15 coming congestion.

16 The loss of tourist dollars and the
17 nightmarish congestion of the scenic highway lost,
18 clogged with mine traffic, on top of the daily over-sized
19 truck caravans that are diverted from I-10 due to the
20 inadequate infrastructure of bridges are reasons enough
21 to oppose this mine, not to mention the environmental
22 degradation it will bring.

23 Make no mistake about it, I can see only
24 destruction of plant, animal, and people's communities
25 here. All due, it seems, to a healthy dose of greed and

1 a grotesque and outdated 1872 mining law that miners have
2 their way, and local communities have little to say.

3 Please, folks, I ask you, one thing to come
4 out of this is call your Congress person, or talk to the
5 one here, and to your Senators, demand that the mining
6 law be revised, or we're looking at the tip of an iceberg
7 here to come through us for many years as commodity
8 prices increase.

9 And don't listen to Augusta when they tell
10 you they're going to clean up because, guess what, they
11 don't really have to. They'll be nice about it, maybe,
12 but we don't know.

13 One other thing I want to say real quick, I
14 walked the Rosemont property about a year and a half ago
15 with some friends. We ran into a geologist who was
16 packing up to leave. He said they were finished. He
17 said, "Are you with the group that's opposed to the
18 mine?"

19 And I said, "Well, I don't know at this
20 point whether we're opposed to the mine."

21 He said, "Well, don't worry about it." The
22 geology company that was hired by Rosemont, I think
23 through either Globe or Superior, and he said clearly,
24 and I have no reason not to believe him, "Don't worry,
25 they can't mine here. The geology, it's all wrong."

1 Now I would like the Forest Service to
2 answer this question to us as soon as possible, find out
3 the geology reports. Was he telling me the truth or was
4 he not? Thank you.

5 MR. BYRON: Can you hear me? Ladies and
6 gentlemen, Congresswoman Giffords, my name is Don Byron,
7 lived in Sonoita for going on 30 years. I'm a mining
8 professional, older than Rod Pace. I've been involved in
9 hard rock mining surface and underground all of my
10 professional life.

11 Initially I want to say there's a right
12 place at the right time, which is Safford,
13 Freeport-McMoran Phelps Dodge. Rosemont Copper out here
14 is definitely the wrong place at the wrong time.

15 To get through this three minutes, I have
16 comments relative to the impact and effect of the
17 Proposed Rosemont Copper Mine, which I'll read pretty
18 fast.

19 One, the problems which will inevitably
20 arise and manifest themselves should be clear to all
21 based on the history of Arizona and all that has
22 transpired during only the last 200 years. Not that long
23 ago, 200 years, the Gila, Salt, and Santa Cruz Rivers ran
24 bank to bank, and their water supported abundant
25 wildlife, as well as all human inhabitants.

1 Two, as time passed on, there was rapid
2 progress in the form of the C's, cotton, cattle, and
3 copper. All Arizonans were not only happy, but proud to
4 be identified as willing participants in any and all of
5 these individual endeavors. We were helping to feed and
6 clothe the populous, as well as supply badly needed
7 copper required by industry, and as support of two major
8 World Wars.

9 Three, this brings up until now, nothing is
10 as constant as change. Copper is no longer the most
11 important mineral in Arizona, water is. The rivers have
12 run dry. Agriculture has sucked up that water level down
13 between Tucson and Phoenix better than 1,000 feet. And
14 the CAP is but a Band-Aid of sorts. If the Green River
15 and the Colorado River decrease substantially in volume,
16 and Arizona's population continues to increase, where
17 does sustainable water come from?

18 Make no mistake, the immediate problem
19 facing us is far beyond the not-my-backyard outcry. It
20 is regional and is of concern to all Arizona residents.

21 Lastly, last as to Rosemont, I'm
22 dumbfounded that this project has been allowed to proceed
23 as far as it has. The water requirement alone is enough
24 to deny them any type of permit.

25 The scant water contained in the east slope

1 aquifer draining off the Santa Ritas is replenished based
2 on annual precipitation averaged over thousands of years.
3 Any sudden major drawdown would have disastrous and
4 permanent effect on all that this aquifer sustains
5 forever.

6 One more thing, then I'll get out of here.
7 If Rosemont should be allowed to proceed, the tailings
8 and unconsolidated waste will accumulate. At some point
9 in time there will be a recurrence of the '83, '92
10 floods. The mine will be wiped out, and all the
11 tailings, chemicals, and assorted junk will have been
12 carried to the east side of SR-83 and strung out all the
13 way to Vail. And you can forget about reclamation, it
14 doesn't happen. I've been --

15 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much.

16 MR. BYRON: -- in the mining business a
17 long time. Thank you.

18 MS. BEAR: Good evening, my name is Dinah
19 Bear. I'm representing the Farmers Investment Company,
20 and Dick and Nan Walden. FICO owns approximately 7,000
21 acres of land in Sahuarita and Green Valley devoted to
22 the cultivation, and harvesting, and processing of
23 pecans.

24 The Proposed Rosemont Copper Mine has a
25 direct impact on FICO land due to the purchase of land

1 directly east of the orchards. Five FICO wells are
2 within a half a mile of FICO's land.

3 FICO and the Waldens also have a deep
4 concern about both the short-term and long-term quality
5 of life in this area. We believe, as stated in a letter
6 that the Waldens submitted to the Forest Service on
7 February 15th of this year, that the Scoping Process was
8 commenced prematurely. We appreciate, as Congresswoman
9 Giffords already said, the extension of time. But from
10 our perspective, the Forest Service did not have adequate
11 information from Augusta Corporation, and has not
12 provided because -- pardon me, because of that,
13 sufficient information to the public to allow the most
14 robust and comprehensive comments possible on scoping.

15 We will submit the letter for the record,
16 but among other things, there are a number of studies,
17 water studies, that need to be completed, including the
18 impact of the drawdown on the Phelps Dodge sulfate plume.

19 Because of the lack of information, and
20 despite the extension of time for scoping, we ask that
21 the Forest Service extend the scoping period for a longer
22 time until there is complete information about the Mining
23 Proposal itself, and sufficient studies about the
24 probable impact, as well as the establishment and
25 convening of the working groups, which were referred to

1 earlier. We agree with Congresswoman Giffords that those
2 working groups need to contribute to the Scoping Process.

3 We also ask the Forest Service to republish
4 the Notice of Intent because the purpose and need
5 articulated in the prior Notice of Intent, published on
6 March 13th, is simply too narrow. The purpose stated in
7 that notice is, quote, to grant permission to the company
8 to use National Forest Service land for the operation of
9 the Rosemont Mine.

10 This is way too narrow. It sounds as
11 though the Forest Service is probably already predisposed
12 to a decision to grant approval to the mine, and needs to
13 be republished with a broader purpose and need.

14 We also ask the Forest Service to
15 facilitate transparency and communication by publishing
16 an estimate or a -- an estimated schedule of compliance
17 with other environmental and cultural review
18 requirements, and how that will fit into the NEPA
19 process. We also ask that the monitoring reports that
20 are committed to in the current Coronado National Forest
21 plan for cultural, recreation, wildlife, riparian
22 resources, and other reports, be made available to the
23 public on the website and in reading rooms in local
24 libraries.

25 In short, we ask that the Scoping Process

1 be extended, and that the Forest Service make all
2 possible information available to the public. Thank you
3 very much.

4 THE MODERATOR: Folks, we're going to take
5 a very short break while we get some chairs set up here.
6 And if you're standing, please come over and help
7 yourself to a chair over here and get comfortable.
8 Thanks.

9 (A break was taken from approximately 6:41
10 p.m. to 6:47 p.m.)

11 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for taking your
12 seats, folks. We have 50 speaker cards that we need to
13 continue with here.

14 I just wanted to let everybody know that we
15 are starting the timer as soon as the speaker states
16 their name. And these microphones are quite directional,
17 so you're going to need to speak right into them like I'm
18 doing. If you see right like that, you'll need to lean
19 into it, okay.

20 All right. And I'm going to call the next
21 three speakers for our speaker cue. We have Annie
22 McGreevy, Jennifer White, and Jimmy Pepper.

23 MS. MCGREEVY: I'm Annie McGreevy, from
24 Sonoita. Jamie Sturgis, vice president of Augusta
25 Resource, has said that Rosemont Copper is considering

1 drilling a tunnel through the Santa Rita Mountains so
2 that watery concentrates could be sent down the pipeline
3 to the west side of the mountains, to a location on Santa
4 Rita Road. They could be processed down there, and 89
5 percent of the water returned for use to the mine.
6 Augusta Resource is studying the feasibility of this as
7 an alternative to driving the concentrates along scenic
8 Highway 83, north to I-10.

9 Mr. Sturgis has also talked about building
10 a road for mining trucks from the east side of the Santa
11 Ritas to the west side, where it would connect with Santa
12 Rita Road. These would be major changes to the Plan of
13 Operations. The public should be allowed to comment on
14 these proposals before a Draft EIS is written.

15 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

16 Jennifer.

17 MS. WHITE: Hi, my name is Jennifer White.
18 I live along the Davidson Wash on Hilton Ranch Road. And
19 I cannot express strongly enough my total objection to
20 this Proposed Mine. The rape, the absolute degradation,
21 the destruction, of this beautiful wilderness, the
22 wildlife. There are just so many reasons why it
23 shouldn't be allowed to go in.

24 And furthermore, when Mr. Pace talks about,
25 you know, how we need these minerals, how we need copper,

1 my understanding is that in order to completely and
2 permanently degrade this beautiful wilderness, 80 percent
3 of the copper will be going to China, and 100 percent of
4 the profits, apparently, are going to Japan, to a company
5 which murdered our sailors and our soldiers after World
6 War II, after the Bataan Death March. So those are my
7 overriding concerns about this project.

8 On a personal level, when I don't have any
9 water, I won't be able to live on my property, but
10 neither will I be able to sell it. I have horses, a lot
11 of the property owners up on my road have horses. We
12 need water. We need water to live out there.

13 I'm almost 60 years old, and my husband is
14 disabled. And I would like to know if
15 Sumitomo/Augusta/Rosemont will write me a guarantee that
16 they will reimburse me for the current cost of my
17 property, plus 10 percent to allow me to move somewhere
18 else with a whole household.

19 So I beg of the Forest Service, please be
20 aware of the concerns of your citizens, as opposed to the
21 greed of these foreign corporations. Thank you.

22 MR. PEPPER: Good evening, my name is Jimmy
23 Pepper. I live approximately four miles south of the
24 Proposed Mine. My comments focus on alternatives to the
25 Proposed Action. The first parenthetical, I'd like to

1 echo the sentiments of all the previous speakers
2 following the gentleman who explained the mine to us.

3 My purpose of my comments is to be certain
4 that the CEPA -- the NEPA process does its job. In
5 addition to the no project alternative, under NEPA an
6 Environmental Impact Statement's required to consider
7 alternatives for the Proposed Action. I've set forth
8 three such alternatives. This is not an exhaustive list,
9 and I do not suggest that the following alternatives will
10 be impact free.

11 My message is simple, straightforward. It
12 is incumbent on the Forest to insist that a range of
13 reasonable alternatives be thoroughly explored in order
14 to find ways to minimize adverse and significant
15 environmental effects of any mining plans approved for
16 this area.

17 Alternative one, limit mining excavation
18 and placement of all spoils to fee simple lands under the
19 ownership of Rosemont. Under this alternative the
20 applicant could demonstrate their commitment to land
21 stewardship through providing maximum protection of all
22 public land surrounding their path in a few simple area.
23 In effect, this alternative would prohibit placement of
24 all spoils and overburden on public lands, thus
25 protecting five square miles of public land designated

1 for permanent mine tailings, facilities, waste rock
2 storage, and open-pit excavation proposed in the current
3 Mining Plan of Operation.

4 Alternative 2, utilize a continuous
5 backfill technology, whereby the open-pit is
6 progressively filled with waste rock and spoils, and
7 overburden generated as the excavation proceeds. This
8 alternative might warrant some interim and very limited
9 storage of waste material on adjoining public land, but
10 would essentially protect all public lands. This
11 alternative would not result in an open-pit completion of
12 extraction, surely a preferable outcome with the current
13 proposal.

14 Finally, Alternative 3, this is my
15 favorite. Remove all spoils, tailing, and waste rock,
16 from the site via a new rail line constructed to the mine
17 site. This so called waste material could then be
18 reutilized as a resource, a positive resource offsite in
19 other industrial processes, including but not limited to
20 crushed rock for construction use, construction landfill,
21 road met construction, similar industrial uses, some may
22 be even requiring radioactivity material.

23 This alternative can clearly promote
24 conservation through minimizing waste materials, while
25 the rail transportation would avoid the significant

1 public safety impacts resulting from the proposed truck
2 traffic on Highway 82.

3 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

4 Our next three speakers are John Maynard,
5 Wendy Russell, and Alison Bunting.

6 MR. MAYNARD: Good evening. My name is
7 John Maynard, and I'm Supervisor at Santa Cruz County, a
8 Member of our Board. And I came here tonight to read a
9 letter that our Board passed unanimously about a little
10 over a year ago February 14th, 2007. It's addressed to a
11 gentleman by the name of Jamie Sturgis, who's the vice
12 president, Projects and Environment, of Augusta Resource
13 Corporation, 4500 Cherry Creek South Drive, Suite 1040,
14 Denver, Colorado. It's regarding the Rosemont Mine.

15 "Dear Vice President Sturgis, Santa Cruz
16 County supports the Pima County Board of Supervisors
17 in their resolution, No. 2007-15, opposing Augusta
18 Resources Corporation's Proposed Rosemont Mine.

19 "Although the mine itself is not situated
20 within our area of jurisdiction, we nevertheless
21 share Pima County's concerns to the environmental and
22 economic impacts that such an operation may have in
23 their county. In particular, we acknowledge Pima
24 County's concern for the adverse impacts that hard
25 rock mining has had on surface and groundwater

1 quality in other areas, and feel that the risk of
2 degrading our precious water resources are not worth
3 the benefits.

4 "Visual impacts, too, are of concern. We
5 consider the scenic resources that we share with
6 Pima County to be one of our most valuable economic
7 development tools. So, too, we support the
8 preservation of important riparian habitat downstream
9 of the proposed site.

10 "In closing, the Santa Cruz County Board of
11 Supervisors joins the Pima County Board of
12 Supervisors and supports their resolution opposing
13 the proposed Rosemont Mine."

14 That is signed, sincerely, Manuel Ruiz,
15 Robert Damon, and John Maynard.

16 And, folks, I'm here to tell you tonight,
17 that when you've got two Boards of Supervisors that
18 oppose something, it's a very, very significant vote.
19 And I hope that the Federal -- our counterparts in the
20 Federal Government will listen to the concerns of local
21 government. Thank you.

22 MS. LEES: My name is Diana Lees. I am
23 speaking in the stead of Wendy Russell. I just have two
24 questions because all of my concerns have already been
25 beautifully and eloquently addressed by other people

1 before me.

2 So my questions to the Forest Service are,
3 number one, how many ways are there for me, Jane Q.
4 Citizen, to sue the Government? What are they, I'd like
5 to know the categories, please? Might as well have it
6 now.

7 Second question, what kind of resources can
8 the Forest Service supply me to assist me in suing them?
9 Thank you.

10 THE MODERATOR: Excuse me, folks. From now
11 on we're not allowed to substitute a speaker card. If
12 you want to speak, you need to have your own name on the
13 speaker card to get into the public record. Thank you.

14 MS. BUNTING: My name is Alison Bunting,
15 and our home is located in Pima County, approximately
16 five miles as the crow flies from the Proposed Mine site.
17 Tonight I'll focus on two of my many concerns.

18 One of the reasons my husband and I moved
19 to Sonoita was for the dark night skies, so important to
20 Wade's astronomy pursuits. Even though we know that this
21 area's population will continue to increase, we derive
22 great comfort in the knowledge that Pima County's
23 astronomy friendly Outdoor Lighting Code would help to
24 control light pollution.

25 Augusta's Mining Plan of Operation states

1 the project, although not required to do so, will make
2 every attempt to comply with the Outdoor Lighting Code.
3 It should be noted, however, that Federal and State laws
4 also require Rosemont operations to give utmost attention
5 to the safety of its employees and the public. The goal
6 is to provide 18,000 lumens per acre while providing a
7 safe, adequately lit work environment.

8 This goal of 18,000 lumens per acre is the
9 maximum allowable brightness for the area in which the
10 mine is located. And Augusta's caveat about safety
11 concerns make me wonder how seriously they will attempt
12 to control light pollution. The 24-hour plan of
13 operation will seriously threaten astronomical research
14 at a number of very important observatories, some of them
15 managed by other Federal agencies.

16 I believe that the Rosemont Mine should be
17 required to comply with the Outdoor Lighting Code. And,
18 therefore, request that the Forest Service assess if it
19 is possible to operate this mine within the Pima County
20 Code while complying with Federal and State employee and
21 public safety regulations. If it is not possible to
22 operate safely under the terms of the Code, then the
23 Forest Service must deny this application.

24 My second concern relates to bonding
25 requirements. Augusta acknowledges required bonding

1 guidelines, and has provided tables summarizing
2 reclamation costs. They state that the average
3 reclamation cost for the annualized early closure basis
4 is just over 10,000 per acre. If the project reaches
5 completion, the cost will be approximately 24 million.
6 As a taxpayer who will undoubtedly be bearing the
7 financial and environmental burden of this project
8 failure, I want to be assured by the Forest Service that
9 this dollar amount is adequate.

10 I'd also like to know what are the
11 measurable standards of performance used in the Rosemont
12 cost estimate? Does the work meet all standards required
13 by law or described in the approved plan or permit? And
14 what is the likelihood that the work will continue to
15 meet the standards? Thank you.

16 THE MODERATOR: Our next three speakers are
17 Dan W. Rehurek, Wayne Bunting, and Steven Allen.

18 MR. REHUREK: My name is Dan Rehurek. I
19 reside -- my wife and I reside here in Sonoita. I'm not
20 an attorney, not a mining engineer. We're ordinary
21 citizens who believe in taking care of the environment.
22 We believe -- I've got a low voice, I'll try. We believe
23 in the Forest Service statement concerning the
24 environment for generations yet to come. We will have
25 several direct questions, by the way, to the Forest

1 Service in writing.

2 While mining has changed measurably for the
3 better in recent years, we've seen the stewardship of
4 mining companies as we've traveled extensively throughout
5 the west. We've seen Bisbee, Douglas, Morenci, Kingman,
6 Continental, Miami, and Globe, just to name a few.
7 Nothing you can say will make us believe that the
8 pristine Rosemont area won't look like Morenci, or Butte,
9 or Leadville, in a few short years.

10 Again, I'm afraid we'll watch the
11 corporation do everything in its power to ensure that
12 workers are not unionized, keeping wages and benefits as
13 low as possible. We will, again, witness corporate
14 lawyers spending millions to fend off regulations on
15 safety, trade, and environmental issues.

16 We understand meeting environmental
17 regulations early on in this process. But years down the
18 road when the Government funds aren't there to provide
19 regulators and to provide inspections, we wonder what
20 will happen.

21 Finally, we believe in a Government of the
22 people, for the people, and by the people. We believe in
23 Gifford Pinchot's statement when, as the first Chief of
24 Forest Service summed up the purpose of the Forest
25 Service, quote, "To provide the greatest amount of good

1 for the greatest amount of people in the long run."

2 We believe in the Forest Service motto of
3 caring for the land and serving people. We fail to see
4 how this Forest Service motto, with its stated mission,
5 can allow a corporation to destroy a pristine area, take
6 multimillions of dollars in profit back to its own
7 country or another country, and then ship their product
8 to yet another company -- or country. This escapes all
9 logic to us.

10 The Rosemont Mine in the Santa Ritas is
11 wrong, and the Government of the people, for the people,
12 and by the people, and its bureaus and departments must
13 ensure that Rosemont does not happen.

14 MR. BUNTING: My name is Wade Bunting. Can
15 you hear me? Thank you. I've been trying to consider
16 all sides of these issues, and I have come to some
17 conclusions. I know that there are risks, and I know
18 that there are rewards. I have discovered that the vast
19 majority of risks will be taken by us, and the vast
20 majority of rewards will be taken by the owner of the
21 mine.

22 I can't address all of the points that I'm
23 going to make in writing to the Forest Service, but I'd
24 like to touch on two. Augusta plans to develop six
25 production water wells in the Santa Cruz Basin to the

1 west of the mine with a combined pumping rate of 9,000
2 gallons of groundwater per minute. The mine has an
3 expected demand of 5,000 acre-feet of water per year, or
4 95,000 acre-feet of water over the lifetime of the mine,
5 and that might be conservative.

6 Despite an already stressed groundwater
7 supply, and significant anticipated population growth in
8 Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Augusta will have no
9 legally enforceable obligation to replace the groundwater
10 that it uses with water deliveries from the Central
11 Arizona Project. Also, the recharge facility near the
12 current terminus of CAP cannot, as Augusta proposes,
13 replace the groundwater lost to the mine's production
14 wells far to the east.

15 And even if it could, 5,000 acre-feet per
16 year represents 20 percent of the recharge facility's
17 maximum net recharge capacity. Moreover, when mandated
18 Colorado River water allocations to California, Nevada,
19 and pre-CAP Arizona cannot be met, as in times of
20 drought, Colorado River water diverted to CAP will be
21 reduced under Federal law. Augusta, therefore, cannot
22 guarantee that sufficient CAP water will be available to
23 replace the groundwater that it uses.

24 My second area is that the mine will
25 threaten the local rural economy, property values, and

1 lifestyle. 30 seconds, huh? Thank you.

2 Well, I'll tell you what. There's trouble
3 for our economy if Augusta goes through with this mine,
4 let's put it that way. And in the balance of time, I
5 would like to say the following thing. That a large
6 open-pit copper mine at Rosemont in the scenic Santa Rita
7 Mountains might be a good idea, that is if society places
8 no value on Arizona's scarce water resources, the beauty,
9 calm, and enjoyment of unspoiled natural places, or on
10 the lives and livelihoods of the many people who depend
11 upon them.

12 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

13 MR. ALLEN: Okay. Can everybody hear me?
14 Okay. I'll try to speak as loud as I can. My name is
15 Steven Allen. I live at 27095 South Wild Antelope Place,
16 Sonoita. My residence is approximately five miles
17 south-southeast of the Proposed Project.

18 I'm against this Project as proposed or in
19 any modified form. I'm also against the current ongoing
20 activities, such as exploratory drilling on public lands
21 without public review comment or recourse. My views are
22 generally shared by the other 13 property owners in my
23 Homeowners Association, whom are taxpaying, voting
24 citizens.

25 The following are my concerns and points of

1 opposition, not in priority order. Number one, safety.
2 I commute Highway 83 12 to 15 times per week, and
3 estimate that I have now driven it over a thousand times.
4 This road is narrow, bumpy, and dangerous. Serious
5 accidents are frequent with the current traffic volume.
6 The road will degrade rapidly with what is proposed,
7 maintenance will be a problem. Accidents will increase
8 frequency and severity. How will the value of life be
9 considered in this decision?

10 Property values will be affected. I would
11 like to know by how much, how will I be compensated, will
12 property taxes go down?

13 Number three, environmental. The Cienegas
14 Valley is a unique environment to all Southern Arizona,
15 with its high altitude, grasslands, and wildlife. It is
16 quiet, peaceful, and beautiful. Scenic Highway 83 is the
17 gateway to this environment, which will be impacted
18 forever if this project goes forward. Regular blasting,
19 with the sonic and seismic effects could likely impact
20 local species and their distributions. I know it will
21 affect myself and my neighbors.

22 Number four, water. There's been a lot of
23 talk so far about the water. CAP water recharge is being
24 done at the lower aquifer level, but what will effect of
25 the depth of the pit have on the water table up here at

1 higher elevations? What will be the seismic impact of
2 the water table up here? How will water quality be
3 affected at the lower levels, not only by the CAP water
4 quality being pumped into the ground, but the effect of
5 runoff and residual processing chemicals down the
6 Davidson Canyon? Over how long a period of time will
7 this be assessed, 25 years, 50 years, 100 years? Tucson
8 has existed longer. Air quality is a concern, also.

9 I thought I would be the first one to raise
10 the light pollution issue. I moved down here because of
11 the night sky. I was -- been told that they would follow
12 the Lighting Code, but so far there's been lights in the
13 area that have not followed the Lighting Code. Safety
14 will always be used as an excuse not to comply.

15 Lastly, I speak to the audience. Get
16 involved, comment on the process, write your local
17 officials, educate the public and the media. Thank you.

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

19 I would like to call Morris Farr, Mickey
20 McArthur, and Connie Mullineau.

21 MR. FARR: Good evening. I'm speaking as
22 the Vice President of Save the Scenic Santa Ritas. About
23 a month ago my wife and I took a nice Sunday afternoon
24 ride up to Gunsight Pass above the Proposed Mine. The
25 prize, of course, was a view from the past. The only

1 spot I know of where you can actually drive to the ridge
2 line of the Santa Rita Mountains.

3 To the east were the gorgeous views of the
4 Sonoita Valley, the Whetstones, Huachucas, and Canelo
5 Hills, to the west was the Santa Cruz Valley. A pretty
6 good view, marred only by the tailing piles on the other
7 side of Green Valley. But all in all, a beautiful spot
8 which would, of course, be completely despoiled by the
9 huge open-pit in the immediate foreground, which Augusta
10 proposes to leave as a permanent monument to mining in
11 the Coronado.

12 But what I really want to call to your
13 attention and to the Forest Service attention is the 63
14 cars and trucks that we counted that Sunday afternoon
15 along Rosemont Junction Road and the associated people,
16 mostly family groups, enjoying camping, barbecues, and
17 picnics on a pleasant spring afternoon. Regrettably, we
18 had to dodge an ATV or two, but it was obvious that this
19 was a popular weekend recreation site for several hundred
20 people.

21 As I understand the maps for Augusta's
22 Proposal, all of this activity would be on land destined
23 to be buried under the tailing piles they propose. Where
24 are these recreationists to go and what will be the
25 environmental impact of shifting these weekend activities

1 to other places?

2 Of course, I need hardly mention that
3 hikers, hunters, and bicyclists make extensive use of the
4 area to be mined. And the Coronado Forest has a forest
5 plan that includes all sorts of recreational activities.
6 It seems to me that the plan should be revisited, and the
7 impact of shifted activities should be carefully
8 evaluated before a conclusion of the EIS process.

9 Continue on that same tact, recreation is a
10 critical component of the economy of northeast Santa Cruz
11 County. People visit us to hike, hunt, bird watch, and
12 just enjoy the beautiful scenery of this area, and in the
13 process enjoy meals in our restaurants, spend the night
14 in our B&B's, and drink wine in our wineries. These are
15 sustainable economic activities.

16 It is quite conceivable that 100 years from
17 now local citizens will be making a living by serving
18 visitors if we still have the scenery and natural areas
19 that attract them. The mine, on the other hand, is an
20 economic boom and bust that in 20 years will leave us
21 nothing but a big hole and bad memories.

22 Our organization, Save the Scenic Santa
23 Ritas, in conjunction with The Sonoran Institute, has
24 commissioned an excellent study of the economics of our
25 area. In your consideration of the economic and social

1 consequences of the Proposed Project, we believe that you
2 should give serious consideration to our study --

3 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

4 MR. FARR: -- and in particular the serious
5 long-term effects of what we believe to be a misguided
6 and inappropriate project --

7 THE MODERATOR: Sir, thank you. Your time
8 is up. Thank you.

9 Mickey McArthur.

10 MR. McARTHUR: My wife and I moved here 21
11 years ago because it was Sonoita. What a wonderful
12 little place. Nice people, not too many people, things
13 went well.

14 Then a decade ago we had to do battle with
15 a different mining company, and we won that battle. God,
16 we were happy with that battle, and we really won it.
17 Sorry about that. We did win that last battle, and
18 everybody in this room needs to pitch in and help us win
19 this battle. It's your battle, it's mine, it's
20 everybody's.

21 We held a meeting in Sonoita a few weeks
22 ago at the Fire Station, and we talked about how we were
23 going to approach this thing and how we were going to win
24 this next battle. And I dare to say that we have -- one
25 of the reasons I was here is because I am a NIMBY

1 (phonetic). My god, I'm a NIMBYat (phonetic). This is
2 my house, my area, my fire department, my this, my that,
3 and I'm really proud of that. And so that's what we need
4 to do.

5 When I came in here tonight and signed up
6 to say a few words, whoever was running the show over
7 there said, well, what do you envision, how do you see
8 this thing? And I hadn't thought about that before, out
9 loud anyway, but I see this as sort of a mini Hiroshima.
10 Thank you.

11 THE MODERATOR: Connie?

12 MS. MULLINEAU: Good evening. Mine will be
13 very short because most people have said many of the
14 things that I struggled to write. I write, but it
15 sometimes is difficult for me. I take a long time to
16 write. So a few hours have gone by, and I had about a
17 page on my -- what do you call it -- your Wordperfect
18 thing in your computer.

19 But I got distracted because a little news
20 flash thing was going across, and it said something about
21 Picher Oklahoma Mine. So I zoomed right to it, and this
22 is what it said.

23 "Picher, Oklahoma, is a dying town due to
24 poisonous acidic water that affected the land and
25 people of the town. The polluted dust has affected a

1 generation. Children's learning abilities decreased.
2 Don't put lead in your head, says the sign still
3 hanging next to City Hall with a drawing of a small
4 child. Adults there suffer from high blood pressure
5 when only in their 20's, and severe diseases are
6 common. A resident of Picher said I would have liked
7 to have seen the town located somewhere else, but no
8 one stepped in to relocate residents through a buyout
9 that would have cost 60 million. Payout now of 1,200
10 of these homes is about \$60,000 each. The town has
11 been whittled down to 800 people."

12 24 hours went by, I was watching the Sunday
13 night news, and there was a flash. The guy that
14 substitutes for Brian Williams, and I can't think of his
15 name, Picher, Oklahoma, was devastated by a tornado.
16 Everyone left in the town was killed.

17 And I thought, well, I spent a long time
18 trying to write an article, trying to get my thoughts
19 together, and here's the answer. We can't prevent
20 natural disaster, which -- but we sure can stand together
21 and prevent the mine. Thank you.

22 THE MODERATOR: Our next speakers are David
23 Arbizo, Gayle Hartmann, and Paul Zapperoli.

24 MR. ZAPPEROLI: I just want to say that all
25 my issues have already been covered, and I'm sure they'll

1 be covered again.

2 THE MODERATOR: And you are?

3 MR. ZAPPEROLI: Paul Zapperoli.

4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

5 MR. ZAPPEROLI: I don't need to take the
6 time to speak.

7 MR. ARBIZO: Hello, my name is -- can you
8 hear me? My name is David Arbizo. I live in Tucson off
9 of Sierrita Mountain Road. I've lived in Arizona all my
10 life, 32 years, and my family has been here since the
11 mid-1800's. And they have made their livings by
12 ranching, farming, and mining, this state and surrounding
13 states.

14 I have been contracted since 2005 to
15 process and inventory core -- core drillings and keep --
16 that we keep -- sorry, a little nervous -- that we keep
17 on site at Rosemont Copper. Since I have worked at
18 Rosemont, they have given me and my family great
19 opportunity. And I have been able to make a good living
20 working for them.

21 On behalf of myself and my family, we feel
22 that Rosemont Copper should be able to mine the Rosemont
23 deposit. It will bring good jobs and great opportunities
24 to many people here and surrounding areas. Since I have
25 worked at Rosemont, I have seen that they care about the

1 safety of their employees, and for the environment, and
2 they intend on keeping their promises in mining this
3 deposit. Thank you.

4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

5 MS. HARTMANN: My name is Gayle Hartmann,
6 and I'm President of Save the Scenic Santa Ritas, an
7 organization I think most of you know well. Our Board
8 and Advisory Board includes members from Sonoita,
9 Patagonia, Green Valley, San Rafael Valley, and Tucson.
10 Of course, we're working in opposition to the mine.

11 And I'm going to say a few words about the
12 Scoping Period. We sent the Forest Service a letter
13 dated April 21st that reiterated an earlier request for a
14 complete set of documents pertaining to the Rosemont
15 Copper Proposal. We noted that we believe it is in
16 compliance with the spirit of the National Environmental
17 Policy Act that we, the public, receive all documents
18 pertaining to the Project so that we can ask
19 knowledgeable questions that relate to all aspects of the
20 Proposal.

21 About a week after our letter, and
22 unbeknownst to us, Pima County sent the Forest Service a
23 letter expressing concern also about what they called
24 premature scoping.

25 They pointed out, I quote, "Augusta is

1 continuing to conduct exploration and define its
2 Project components. This results in considerable
3 uncertainty in the Project description, and,
4 therefore, in understanding just where the affected
5 communities might be. Furthermore, the Mining Plan
6 of Operation itself is still incomplete in many
7 important details, such as water and smelting," and I
8 might add the tunnel idea that has been discussed.

9 The National Forest Service staffer who
10 spoke at the beginning, Teresa Ann Ciapusci, said the
11 Scoping Process follows, quote, receipt of the proposal.
12 So we are going to, again, strongly urge the Forest
13 Service to extend the Scoping Period to at least 60 days
14 after a final and complete Mining Plan of Operation is
15 received. Thank you.

16 THE MODERATOR: Would Mark Trueblood, and
17 Nancy Freeman, and Stacy Fletcher please come up. Thank
18 you.

19 MR. TRUEBLOOD: I'm Mark Trueblood. I live
20 a half-mile north of here on Milky Way. I've lived there
21 since 1992. I want to thank the Forest Service for this
22 opportunity to speak. And I don't see her here now, but
23 I want to thank Congresswoman Giffords for attending here
24 tonight earlier.

25 I wanted to talk about a couple of issues

1 if I have time, but somebody mentioned earlier the issue
2 of light pollution. And I just wanted to make a point
3 that more light does not equate to better visibility.

4 If you've ever been to one of these gas
5 station canopies that's overlit, you pump your gas, your
6 pupils constrict because of all the light. And then you
7 try to pull out to a dark road, you can't see anything.
8 So, you know, you have to use outdoor lighting carefully.

9 And I don't think that just lighting up the
10 place without any forethought and without good lighting
11 engineering is going to equate to better safety. So I
12 think the company, if this project proceeds, which I hope
13 it doesn't, should hire a lighting engineer to help them
14 comply with the Pima County Lighting Code. I think they
15 should follow that just for the safety of their own
16 people.

17 Because, for example, when the Border
18 Patrol had all their lights hitting drivers as they were
19 coming down to that checkpoint, I wrote a letter to the
20 agent in charge and suggested that she take a look at
21 that to avoid having somebody blinded and hit their
22 agents. And I don't know if my letter did any good, but
23 I noticed they changed the lighting there, so at any
24 rate.

25 And also, there's a lot of observatories in

1 the area that, you know, like Kitt Peak is the U.S.
2 National Observatory, and Smithsonian also has a major
3 observatory right in the Santa Rita Mountains, and I
4 don't think they'd appreciate having a lot of light.

5 When the mining engineers were out there,
6 they had a horrendous light out there that you could
7 plainly see from State Route 83 at night that did not
8 comply with the County Lighting Code. Why should we
9 believe that they're going to comply with anything else,
10 if they can't even comply with one light that did not
11 comply with the Lighting Code.

12 Also, you know, I commute into Tucson every
13 day along State Route 83. We have all these wide loads.
14 You know, I can just imagine their trucks trying to get
15 by all these wide loads. That's going to be interesting
16 with DPS. So, okay, my time's up.

17 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

18 MS. FREEMAN: My name is Nancy Freeman,
19 Groundwater Awareness League. Uranium is in the bedrock
20 throughout Arizona, which presents a unique challenge to
21 mining here. The danger is so significant, that when the
22 Washington, D.C., office of EPA published a report in
23 1999 on the health hazards of Technologically Enhanced
24 Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials, TENORM, they
25 used only Arizona mines as their examples.

1 All three that are here in Pima County,
2 Cyprus Sierrita, Twin Buttes, and Cyprus Tohono, are
3 under Superfund actions at this time for having polluted
4 the groundwater with heavy metals and are radioactive
5 chemicals produced in mining operations.

6 Freeport-McMoran has recently submitted to
7 Department of Environmental Quality a 540-page work plan
8 regarding the mandated cleanup of heavy metals and
9 radioactive materials all in the Cyprus Sierrita Mine.
10 The EPA TENORM report references 14 assessments of
11 uranium levels in Pima County and Santa Cruz Counties.

12 Uranium is practically inert in its natural
13 state. However, when it is ground into powder, and
14 treated with chemicals in copper processing, it is
15 converted into gross alpha, gross beta, Radon, and other
16 components that are regulated by EPA as they are known to
17 be carcinogens.

18 We do not know the effects on our bird and
19 animal population that we should be protecting in our
20 National Forest. Even so, it is easy to surmise the
21 consequences of their ingesting chemicals that cause
22 cancer in humans. The Federal Department of Justice
23 cited Morenci, Arizona, Copper Mine for bird deaths on
24 that premises.

25 Further, the Rosemont operations will be

1 using sulfuric acid for leaching. Again, the impact of
2 open leach ponds on our animal life is perilous. If a
3 critter or a bird were to test the waters, the evidence
4 of their demise would be dissolved in the acidic
5 solutions within seconds. How will a mining company
6 prevent this danger to our animal friends who have been
7 habituated to living in this forest for hundreds of
8 years?

9 Furthermore, the solutions are regularly
10 released to the environment, including groundwater, due
11 to breakage of pipes and malfunctioning of equipment.
12 This has been a regular occurrence at Sierrita Mine.
13 Data indicates that these fields reached two public
14 supplies wells, causing spikes in sulfate levels.
15 Further, in 2002 a pond at Silverbell Mine overflowed,
16 releasing 242,000 gallons of sulfuric acid into the
17 environment.

18 This danger to human, bird, and animal
19 health from radioactive chemicals, heavy metals, sulfuric
20 acid, and other processing chemicals, such as cyanide and
21 xanthates, must be thoroughly investigated. And any and
22 all impacts must be avoided.

23 The bottom line is we already have three
24 Superfund sites in Pima County --

25 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

1 MS. FREEMAN: -- that pollute the water,
2 air, and soil, and we don't need another one. I have all
3 the data backing up all my statements.

4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for your
5 comments.

6 Stacy Fletcher.

7 MS. FLETCHER: Hello. I first visited
8 Arizona in 1969, moved to Arizona in 1974, moved to
9 Sonoita in 1988. We were part of the first go-round in
10 the 1990's. Sorry to have to go through this again. I
11 did write a letter to Jeanine Derby, and this is how I
12 summarized my concerns.

13 "This proposed open-pit mine would do
14 irreparable damage in a beautiful mountain, and it
15 would do irreparable damage to its clean air, water,
16 and abundant plant and animal life.

17 "Don't waste your time on a protracted NEPA
18 survey. The survey should start and stop with the
19 issue of water. There is not enough for mining, and
20 what water is used will never be anything but a
21 polluted toxic brew that will travel well beyond any
22 manmade containment in the centuries ahead.

23 "The carbon emissions of destroying a
24 forested landscape and those produced by mining will
25 only worsen global warming. You will have the power

1 to help this be a greener world.

2 "And you work for me, a U.S. taxpayer, not
3 for a Canadian mining company. Protect our National
4 Forest and protect my tax dollars. Stop the Rosemont
5 Mine now." Thank you.

6 THE MODERATOR: We have time for three more
7 speakers, and then we'll be taking a break. The next
8 speakers are Neal Hanna, Lois Krietemeyer, and Lois
9 Kolesner.

10 MR. HANNA: Can you hear me now? I'm Neal
11 Hanna. I live on Hillton Ranch Road. I have owned
12 property there since 1978, built our dream home about
13 four years ago there after spending 30 years in a little
14 12-by-60.

15 But, unfortunately, our dream home is
16 starting to become a nightmare because of our proximity
17 of the mine to us. We're about two and a half miles,
18 three miles, from the mine, in the shadows of the
19 proposed dry tailing stack, which would be about 700
20 feet.

21 One of my concerns is obviously the water.
22 And the pit will basically, as in the process of
23 dewatering the pit, it will lower the groundwater table
24 to where myself and all my neighbors will basically be
25 waterless.

1 That's just the short -- the short answer
2 to this problem is basically not to have the mine. But
3 it's not going to be that simple, and that's why
4 everybody needs to be involved, writing, and calling,
5 talking to our Congressmen, no matter what side of the
6 aisle they are on.

7 And one more thing about the roadway
8 concerns me is because of the fact that we're going to
9 have the trucks going up and down hauling our hazardous
10 materials up and down 83. And with that being focused in
11 on there, we definitely need more than one entrance to
12 the mine if they go ahead with the mine. Because the
13 fact is that if one of these trucks roll over and dump a
14 load of acid in the Davidson Canyon Creek, it's going to
15 affect more than just us. It will be Tucson that will be
16 getting a gift, also. And that's all I have to say.
17 Thank you.

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Before we have
19 our next speaker, we have a car outside that's locked
20 with the engine running. And it is a Dodge Caravan,
21 license 047KBA -- KBE.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It was locked when we
23 came in and running, and locked when we left and running.

24 THE MODERATOR: Okay. So somebody might be
25 running out of gas out there, so.

1 And our next speaker is Lois Krietemeyer.

2 MS. KRIETEMEYER: Everything I was going to
3 say has already been brought up, so I don't need to.

4 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank you very much.
5 And Lois Kolesner?

6 MS. KOLESNER: Actually, I'm -- (comments
7 already addressed, opted not to speak.)

8 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank you.

9 Why don't we take a ten-minute break then.
10 Thank you.

11 (A break was taken from approximately 7:36
12 p.m. to 7:52 p.m.)

13 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Folks, can we have
14 everybody take their seats again. We have about 20 more
15 speakers. So right now we have about approximately 20
16 more speaker cards. That's about an hour to an hour and
17 a half if we keep things moving.

18 And if you do wish to speak, and you have
19 not filled out a card, please get one from the sign-in
20 table. And go ahead and fill it out, and give it to
21 them, and you will have your opportunity to speak. Thank
22 you so much.

23 Okay. We'd like to invite our next three
24 speakers up, Sue Baz, Ray Carroll, and Craig Fletcher.
25 And Melissa is our new timekeeper.

1 Again, please state your name and speak
2 directly into the microphone.

3 Do we have Sue Baz?

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, she's gone.

5 THE MODERATOR: She's gone.

6 Okay. Ray Carroll.

7 MR. CARROLL: Last time I was down here in
8 Elgin there was more cops than cowboys. It's good to see
9 these cowboys out here. I didn't really appreciate it,
10 kind of blocking the entrance, you know, letting us know
11 how far they had to pull us to throw us in the back of
12 one of them squad cars. Wasn't really inviting, but we
13 encouraged them.

14 What I wanted to let you know, I'm real
15 honest when I say this, the more money Rosemont spends on
16 that ranch, the more impregnable they believe they are.

17 I was out there Sunday morning, Mother's
18 Day. I went to visit my mother, Mother Nature. It was
19 so rewarding. And what did I see? I saw some jack drill
20 riggers.

21 I saw guys that looked like they were on a
22 24/7 roundabout clock from Salt Lake City, Utah. They
23 were real friendly. I'm sure they didn't recognize me.
24 They were real helpful in giving me a lot of information.
25 I had a great conversation with them. They were on their

1 second drill well, and they've got six more to go. All
2 these wells digging on the Forest Service land.

3 I know that Rosemont is out giving tours.
4 I'd like one of them tours. I'd like to know what all
5 them semis I counted on Sunday morning were bringing in
6 to the Rosemont Junction Ranch. I'd like to know. Well,
7 I followed one of them. And it was getting unloaded. It
8 looked like a bunch of pump type equipment.

9 But, you know, then I kind of wandered over
10 and started looking at the ranch compounds themselves
11 that are high link-chain fence. And inside I want to
12 know what all those 55-gallon barrels are doing. I want
13 to know what's in them. Will I ever know? I doubt it.
14 I bet -- I bet I can't get in there.

15 There's also -- I want to say I was with
16 Chuck Bowden yesterday, who is reminding me of some, oh,
17 turquoise and silver mines that were dug by the Spaniards
18 500 years ago that have never been reclaimed, and
19 they'll never be reclaimed. It's an impossible thing to
20 say you're going to reclaimate an open-pit mine.

21 What these folks at Rosemont Copper are
22 trying to do is turn our Santa Ritas flat, hot, and dry.
23 Do we want that folks? I assume that we don't. And I
24 don't think the Forest Service does either.

25 The well drinking -- the well drilling

1 crews are busy on it. They're making it dry already.

2 And I want to say to John Maynard thank you
3 for recognizing the Resolution. I've got 30 seconds
4 left.

5 It's all about water. All the other
6 Governments are against this mine, as well. It's all
7 about water. Open-pit mining, especially open-pit copper
8 mining, is incompatible with the Sonoran Desert. In
9 fact, I believe having a geologist on staff with the
10 Coronado National Forest is a conflict of interest. I
11 don't think we should have this discussion today.

12 Having only about ten seconds left, I want
13 to say that -- my time is up. But I'll tell you what,
14 Rosemont pulled out the pin on this grenade. We need all
15 of us together to put it back in. Who's with me?

16 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for your
17 comments.

18 MR. FLETCHER: My name is Craig Fletcher.
19 I've lived in Sonoita for 20 years. I moved to Tucson in
20 1973.

21 I actually was a hard rock miner. I busted
22 rocks a half-mile under ground at Magma. I'm here to
23 tell you I didn't make any 60-grand a year. I bought my
24 supplies and my tools from the company store. And me and
25 my rock buddies lived in substandard housing rented to us

1 by the company. So it ain't all it's cracked up to be.

2 I'd like to know from the Forest Service
3 how we can expect the hydrological studies being done to
4 be unbiased when Augusta is hiring and paying for them.
5 These studies should be done by someone who is
6 independent. And that could be easily done and still
7 financed by Augusta Resources since they're the Canadians
8 that are going to profit from this.

9 I'd also like to know why are we here?
10 Company shareholder literature brags about a \$29 million
11 long lead (phonetic) order for a SAG and ball mill. Has
12 this project already been given the go-ahead, and we're
13 just here blowing hot air around the room? I don't know
14 what the Forest Service has to say about that.

15 And I don't know how an EIS can be formed
16 without knowing the full extent of this project.
17 Augusta's literature talks about further exploration
18 outside of the boundaries of the described plan already
19 submitted, including the possibility of underground
20 mining and more than one pit. How can you do a study and
21 assess the environmental damage when this company is not
22 being forthcoming about the extent of this project? Is
23 this just a foot in the door to what is going to become a
24 mine complex?

25 Augusta Resources is not being open or

1 honest about anything. And you can buy their stock for
2 about 4 bucks a share, and, you know, it's probably about
3 as good an investment as any dot-com thing, including
4 cybercom.com, which Gorkey (phonetic) headed up in the
5 '90s. Check it out, people.

6 THE MODERATOR: Would Kate Tirion come up,
7 and Chuck Hammond, and Patricia Scarboro.

8 MS. TIRION: Good evening, friends and
9 neighbors. I'm Kate Tirion, I'm a Patagonia resident.
10 I'm a sustainable systems designer. I work with whole
11 systems. Words that I use a lot are sustainability,
12 regeneration, resilience.

13 I'm interested in water supply. I'm
14 interested in food supply. I'm interested in my
15 experience when I drive up that pass, and it opens out
16 before me as I start to come down the other side. And my
17 heart soars, as yours does, I'm sure. What does that
18 look like? What does it do to us to have our land torn
19 apart? It tears us apart.

20 But more in times of uncertainty, in times
21 when we look at global warming, uncertain weather
22 patterns, will we get rain, how much, where will it go.
23 We're not alone in this. This is a global situation,
24 water. We've been talking about it for almost 20 years.

25 I have an article of Mikhail Gorbachev's

1 from 1992 talking about global water issues. And here we
2 are right at home talking about 5,000 acre-feet a year.
3 Can you imagine how much our agricultural communities
4 could raise in food with that much water? Somehow I feel
5 that is more important than our global trafficking of
6 food.

7 We also must consider what we buy. Inside
8 a lot of things that we buy because they're new and
9 wonderful is copper. Be less consumers, be more
10 conscious.

11 Think local, think food. Let's not have a
12 one-night stand of mining, because that's what it is in
13 the scheme of things. Here today, extract, gone
14 tomorrow, and we're torn apart. Let's grow food instead
15 of copper. Thank you.

16 THE MODERATOR: Is Chuck Hammond here?

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He went home to feed the
18 horses.

19 THE MODERATOR: Okay. They need that.
20 Patricia Scarboro.

21 MS. SCARBORO: Everyone is -- I'm Patricia
22 Scarboro. I live in Sonoita. Everyone is talking about
23 water. I want to talk about water briefly, but I'm going
24 to emphasize another aspect of the water, and that's the
25 toxin contamination. The toxin runoff help impact -- how

1 will that affect our residential wells, how will that
2 affect our wildlife, and will it affect the health of the
3 wildlife, the reproduction of the wildlife, the birth
4 defects, how will it affect birth defects?

5 I read in the Rosemont Mine Plan of
6 Operation, dated July 11, 2007, prepared by Westland
7 Resources. One of their means to mitigate this runoff is
8 to restrict the natural runoff of the water. So what's
9 the mitigation to their mitigation plan? Because we
10 restrict the natural runoff of the water, that's going to
11 impact, as well. Because our society, the wildlife,
12 depends on this runoff.

13 Second, I want to talk about the roads and
14 the traffic. The primary access road was defined also in
15 this report, and they are going to widen that access road
16 to two lanes that are 14 feet wide, with a 4-foot
17 shoulder, including a ditch, also for runoff. This is
18 just the access road. What are they going to do to I-10?
19 There is no mention, except for one little spot on I-10
20 where you enter and exit that road.

21 83 -- excuse me, I said I-10. 83 will not
22 be able to handle the traffic. If they have to widen
23 that access road that wide, what are they going to do to
24 83? They also mention an access that goes towards
25 Sonoita.

1 Two of the railroad that they will be
2 accessing would be at Sahuarita, and the other would be
3 at Benson. Depending on the size of the trucks, the
4 trucks cannot go underneath of the overpasses to Benson.
5 Therefore, they'll go like all the other wide loads and
6 come through Sonoita.

7 Wildlife, there was -- I'd like to mention
8 wildlife briefly. I have 30 seconds. There's an
9 immediate impact to the footprint of wildlife. And also,
10 there's long-term -- and I touched on that about the
11 possible birth defects. The blasting that will run the
12 wildlife off.

13 Other areas, power lines. I don't know
14 what impact we're going to have on power lines, but they
15 have to bring power in. That's going to be in addition
16 to the footprint. Thank you.

17 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much.

18 Our next speaker cards are Joan Williams,
19 Donald Irving, and Donald Weinstein. Do we still have
20 any of those folks?

21 Please state your name, thank you.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Joan Williams.
23 My husband and I live in Sonoita. First I'd like to
24 quote the Forest Service Mission Statement. I'm quoting
25 the Forest Service Mission Statement, if anyone missed

1 that, "Helping states and communities to wisely use the
2 forest to promote rural economic development in a quality
3 rural environment. Protecting and managing the national
4 forest and grasslands so they best demonstrate the
5 sustainable multiple use management concept," unquote.

6 How does an open-pit mine demonstrate the
7 sustainable multiple management concept? What does it
8 have do with the quality of rural environment? At a
9 Forest Service Open House meeting, when answering a
10 question about the displacement of aquifer, and the test
11 wells that they are drilling now, as Ray Carroll
12 mentioned, a key Forest person used this language, when
13 the pit goes in. Not if the pit goes in.

14 This is not a done deal. All that we can
15 do to help the Forest Service in adhering to their
16 mission, we will continue to do. We are going to stop
17 this mine. And with all the damage that Augusta
18 Resources has already done so far in the Santa Rita
19 Mountains, the sooner we help them figure that out the
20 better. Remember, caring for the land and serving people
21 captures the Forest Service Mission.

22 Also, I'd like to add, since no one has
23 mentioned it, we hear all about Augusta Resources'
24 promises to replace our groundwater with CAP water.
25 There's a reason that they don't talk about actually

1 using CAP water. CAP water will ruin their equipment.
2 So they use our good groundwater and replace it with
3 water even they won't use. What a bargain. Thank you.

4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Is Donald
5 Irving here?

6 MR. IRVING: Water has been well-addressed.
7 There's an aspect of it I'd like to point out. Let me
8 put into context, an acre-foot, that's one acre one-foot
9 deep, times five or 8,000 of those acre-feet. That's a
10 lot of water. Think of that as a lake. Who will assess
11 the impact of that lake on other water users in the area?

12 The other side of that is what happens to
13 that water after it's been used and full of toxic
14 chemicals? Who will assess that? Why it turns out, a
15 company paid for by the Mining Company. Is that a
16 conflict of interest? It is.

17 It's a conflict of interest. Forest
18 Service says that's part of the process. If it's part of
19 the process, it's a flawed process. And flawed processes
20 of this kind have led to Superfund cleanup sites that has
21 cost the taxpayer millions or billions of dollars. We do
22 not need another one in Arizona.

23 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

24 Do we have Donald Weinstein still here?

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No.

1 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Our next speaker, I
2 believe this is John Taylor. John Taylor?

3 Jay Petty? I think we had a lot of horses
4 to go home and feed.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's correct.

6 THE MODERATOR: We have them in Maricopa
7 County, too.

8 Stephen Strom.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Who's the next two?

10 THE MODERATOR: Oh, I'm sorry, thank you.
11 Gail Holman and Robert Harris.

12 MR. STROM: My name is Steve Strom. I'm a
13 resident of Sonoita. And I'm here in my role as
14 President of the Sonoita Crossroads Community Forum, a
15 group of about 100 members, who over the last two years
16 has had more than 250 members of the community attend its
17 meetings. The Forum provides a locus for discussion of
18 issues key to the future of Sonoita, Patagonia, and
19 Elgin.

20 In 2006 the Board unanimous -- the SCCF
21 voted unanimously to oppose development of the Rosemont
22 Mine. First, on the grounds that water -- both usage of
23 water and potential contamination was a serious and
24 unquantified issue. And we felt that it had the
25 potential -- the mine had the potential of despoiling key

1 aquifers.

2 Second, we were concerned about the effect
3 on the delicate ecological systems in the foothills of
4 the Santa Ritas.

5 Third, we were concerned about the effect
6 on human use, recreation, as well as the silent beauty of
7 open space. We also were concerned about the effects on
8 the local economy, of both owing to the increased traffic
9 on State Route 83, and, of course, the despoliation of
10 one of the most beautiful areas along scenic Highway 83.
11 We believe as a community that the Mine would change the
12 quality of life in northeast Santa Cruz County forever.

13 The specific questions that we'd like to
14 raise, one that Gayle Hartmann raised before, and it's a
15 simple question. We don't have a complete Plan of
16 Operation to review. So I think it's essential for us to
17 have additional time to provide input as the Plan of
18 Operations becomes -- after the Plan of Operations become
19 final. It cannot -- it's not possible for us to provide
20 a complete set of questions to the Forest Service absent
21 a complete plan.

22 Obviously our greatest concern is about
23 water, not of the state issues, but also potential
24 catastrophic issues, for example, serious side effects.
25 And we'd like to see studies that address those problems

1 carefully.

2 Third, we believe it's essential to have
3 nonadvocate review of the science, water usage,
4 ecological studies, transportation studies, and economic
5 input. What I mean by that is we shouldn't have studies
6 paid for by Augusta, but there ought to be nonadvocate
7 reviews.

8 Finally, our members stand ready to work
9 with the Forest Service on any of the working groups that
10 the Congresswoman -- Congresswoman Giffords mentioned
11 earlier today. There are many people with many talents
12 who would be willing to serve on those groups. Thank
13 you.

14 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

15 MS. HOLMAN: Hi, I'm Gail Holman from
16 Resource MFG. The American welfare state is growing out
17 of control with tens of millions of Americans receiving
18 some form of Government handout. I work for a company
19 that matches people with jobs and jobs with people.
20 Southern Arizona needs jobs to offer our young people.

21 Rosemont Copper has identified a resource
22 -- a natural resource that will produce jobs. Instead of
23 debating such a valuable resource, perhaps we can support
24 this resource and help Rosemont Copper do it right. We
25 have outsourced manufacturing and mining, and our country

1 is suffering as a result of the continued outsourcing.
2 We cannot continue turning our back on how to do it and
3 do it right in this country. Thank you.

4 MR. HARRIS: My name is Robert Harris. I'm
5 the last of the copper strikers, Morenci, 1983. I was a
6 miner.

7 Augusta's financial statement shows a \$4
8 million deposit on mill equipment. Are you that positive
9 of a favorable decision?

10 In reports to Rosemont, the core samples
11 stored at Rosemont cannot be verified as to location. I
12 suggest that the verification be done on those core
13 samples.

14 Eventually local pumping for the pit
15 dewatering will equal 500 gallons per minute. That's 500
16 gallons per minute that they're going to pump out of the
17 Cienega water site. Cienega doesn't flow 500 gallons per
18 minute.

19 Augusta has approximately 11 to 12,000
20 acres under unpatented mining claims. Have all 12,000 of
21 those mining claims been proven, because they want to
22 control them?

23 Augusta has a 1200 gallon per minute pump
24 installed. They call it a stock pump. Must have awful
25 thirsty cattle. If they want to put -- bring water in,

1 build a lake, use it for recharge, use it for recreation.
2 Don't pump more water out of this site.

3 Rosemont claims three years of water has
4 been recharged. In actuality, 600 acre-feet has been
5 recharged at Pima Mine Road. The rest of it's been
6 recharged at Avra Valley. I'm not sure how you pump from
7 Avra Valley to Sahuarita.

8 A Congressional Hearing was held in 2007,
9 and testimony was given opposing the mine. I suggest
10 those hearing records are included in the NEPA process.

11 Augusta owns additional land besides the
12 Rosemont area. If they're permitted to mine the Rosemont
13 area, will it make it easier for additional approval on
14 further land? They say they want 3600 acres. They want
15 11 to 12,000 to control.

16 And if there's a Rosemont representative
17 here that can verify I'm saying something false, stand
18 right up and tell me I'm a liar. Rosemont is doing a
19 rent-a-cow function on the land. Each of their 20-acre
20 parcels on the private patented mining claims, they're
21 paying approximately \$10 per year. I certainly would
22 like that type of tax rate for my land.

23 Thank you for coming tonight.

24 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. The next cards
25 I have here are James Sullivan, Andy Mrozowski, and Zay

1 Hartigan. Do we have any of those folks with us still?

2 MR. MROZOWSKI: I'm here, Andy Mrozowski.

3 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Andy.

4 MR. MROZOWSKI: Good evening, my name is
5 Andy Mrozowski. I live in Tucson. I lived there for
6 past 33 years.

7 And I believe that Rosemont Mine is the
8 first significant business opportunity that came to this
9 region since 1978 when IBM -- since 1978 when IBM moved
10 in. I believe that the mine should open.

11 I visited this area 34 years ago, and I
12 have to say one thing. We're talking about environmental
13 impact, and water consumption, and everything. 33 years
14 ago, 34 years ago, this area was very pristine. There
15 were very, very few homes in here. Most of -- with all
16 due respect to all the speakers before me, I don't
17 believe they lived here 33 years ago. And if we really
18 cared that much about the environment, we wouldn't move
19 here. Thank you very much.

20 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, sir.

21 Do we have Zay Hartigan? No?

22 Richard Calabro, and then it looks like
23 Carl Anderson would be next, and then Rene Prentice.

24 MR. CALABRO: I'm Richard Calabro from
25 Green Valley, Arizona. It took us, my wife and I, an

1 hour and a half to get here. It's worth it for the
2 public to get to say how they feel. And it's quite clear
3 what the feeling is, we don't want a mine here, the
4 Rosemont Valley, or anywhere. We've got enough, no more,
5 Forest Service, please.

6 I'm concerned that this should be a fair
7 process. I've heard Washington is dictating the decision
8 to the Forest Service. I'm praying that the Forest
9 Service has the courage to do what they know from the
10 good science.

11 And everything that's been said here, can
12 be verified by good science. What they know is the right
13 decision, which is to deny Rosemont those 3,670 acres to
14 put their tailings. Science will show that that's the
15 correct decision to deny that request.

16 I've spoken -- I mean, I'm really pleased
17 at the changes that I've seen since the scoping meetings.
18 And I thank God for the man in Patagonia who got up and
19 demanded that we have a real meeting. Gabrielle Giffords
20 acted upon that.

21 And we have Reta Laford, I believe, who was
22 telling us, finally, and it was a really good feeling in
23 Sahuarita, to hear what an EIS is, and to even respond to
24 some of the questions at that time. It was a warm
25 feeling, and this is feeling better.

1 And I spoke with John Able after that
2 meeting about why -- where environmental organizations,
3 like Save the Scenic Santa Ritas, Earthworks, and another
4 one that's a good strong one we have here, why weren't
5 they at those scoping meetings, along with the
6 representatives of the mine and their consultants?

7 Reta said, and correctly so, we want to
8 hear from you, we want to know your concerns. If so many
9 people are obviously concerned about this mine, why
10 wasn't someone who would be representing those concerns
11 at those scoping meetings? So I want to know that this
12 process will be fair, that the Forest Service will show
13 very good faith in this process.

14 And I really enjoyed the ride down here. I
15 haven't been on 83 for maybe six months or a year. My
16 wife and I said should we go 19 or 83. And I really
17 enjoyed, and I'm glad we took 83.

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much.

19 MR. ANDERSON: My name is Carl Anderson, I
20 live over in "Ren Gali" (phonetic). I moved here for the
21 environment, by the way. Ten years ago I had a house
22 here for three.

23 I am here to address my concerns regarding
24 cultural degradation. Everyone has spoken about air,
25 water, light, noise pollution, all these things

1 contribute to cultural degradation. And the best
2 interests and the interests that the Forest Service is
3 supposed to look out for is the best use. The best use
4 of this property has already been established. We see it
5 every day, it's the grass. The grass in Rosemont Ranch
6 right now is sustaining cattle.

7 We're looking at cultural degradation, the
8 Apache people, the Tohono O'Odham people, more
9 importantly, the most recent people taking advantage of
10 the grass, the ranchers, the cowboys. I can't speak for
11 the cowboys, I can't speak for the Indians. But one
12 reason I came out here is because of the cowboys and the
13 Indians. There's cultural degradation going on.

14 You've heard all the other speakers, you
15 know what will happen. I worked on an Indian Reservation
16 where the mine did not go through. They had to pay \$12
17 million back.

18 The other thing you need to think about is
19 that mine tailings are the consistency of talcum powder.
20 When they go through the mill, and I know this because
21 I've been in a mining course at Colorado, consisting of
22 talcum powder. You know what happens when the wind blows
23 this direction from Tucson. You people who like the
24 wine, the cattle.

25 I don't want to see the cowboys go away. I

1 don't want to see anything go away from this place. I'm
2 firmly against the mine.

3 And I want to thank everyone of my
4 neighbors for being out here tonight. Please speak to
5 your people at the Federal level because I'm afraid
6 things in this current Administration have been
7 politicized, including, unfortunately, and I use a
8 disclaimer here, it appears that even the Forest Service
9 has been politicized. So we need to stand up for our
10 rights, our individual rights, and more important, our
11 cultural rights. Thank you very much.

12 MS. PRENTICE: Hi, I'm Rene Prentice. Can
13 you hear me? I came here tonight just to kind of watch
14 and gather information. However, I decided that I really
15 need to speak. I need to represent my family.

16 My family is six generations living on this
17 land in this community, when they have been here for over
18 100 years. I have personally been here over 64 years. I
19 married -- my granddad worked in the mines in order to
20 make money to buy fencing. And the minute he got enough
21 money to buy fencing, he quit. There must have been a
22 reason.

23 We're long-time, but very small, ranchers
24 in this community, and we love the land. We've kept it
25 through two World Wars, and the Great Depression, and a

1 couple of minor recessions. There is no amount of money
2 that can pay me to sell that land to live on polluted,
3 raped land and drink polluted water.

4 I married into a mining family. My husband
5 actually drove a dump truck at one time into the tailings
6 pond when he was working his way through college. My
7 husband's uncle worked in the crusher. He can't hear
8 anything anymore.

9 I know the mine does bring a few good jobs,
10 in general they pay well. But what they leave behind is
11 pollution, a dead land, and a raped landscape, and I do
12 not want to see that happen to my home.

13 I don't want to see that for my children.
14 My son lives in Vail. I don't want to see my
15 grandchildren die from drinking water that has arsenic in
16 it. Thank you.

17 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Do we
18 have any more speaker cards up front? The last card I
19 have I believe is someone we heard from earlier, Diana
20 Lees, so I believe that this concludes our hearing.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We have one more.

22 THE MODERATOR: Spoke too soon.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Susan Andersen.

24 THE MODERATOR: Pardon?

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Susan Andersen.

1 THE MODERATOR: Susan Andersen.

2 MS. ANDERSEN: My name's Susan. My husband
3 and I -- my husband and I moved from New York City four
4 years ago to Sonoita for astronomy and deep
5 astralphotography. I'm so livid, I can't even believe
6 this is happening.

7 Beautiful scenic Santa Ritas, just how
8 beautiful will they be with mining trucks going out every
9 15 minutes? Rosemont plans to use waste rock as a visual
10 shield. Well, what's going to shield the view of the
11 waste rock?

12 We keep hearing about the jobs Rosemont
13 will bring. The price of these jobs will be lower
14 property values, a degradation of our air quality, our
15 quality of life, and an unacceptable blight to our
16 beautiful mountains.

17 Some will look at these mines and see
18 dollar signs. I look at these mines as a travesty.

19 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much.

20 And we have one more speaker card, Grace
21 Wysach -- Wylach? Sorry.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi, Gracie.

23 MS. WYSTRACH: My name is Grace Wystrach,
24 and we are owners of probably one of the larger
25 businesses in the Sonoita area. I'm also a very

1 long-time resident. Not quite as long as Rene, but I
2 have been here since 1949. Our family was a ranching
3 family. We are currently the owners of the Steak Out
4 Restaurant, the Sonoita Inn, and the Shell Convenience
5 Store in Sonoita, and have been for 25 years.

6 I feel that the construction of this mine,
7 what few jobs it will bring to the area for the 19 years
8 that they're expected to be functioning, certainly will
9 never replace the tourist industry that we depend on
10 here. Our business basically deals with the fact that
11 people come to the Sonoita area because of its beauty,
12 the nature, the wineries, the bird watching, and just in
13 general a very pristine and very beautiful area.

14 Yes, it's changed, and yes, we have people
15 living here that weren't living here 30 years ago. But
16 it is still a very pristine and very beautiful area, and
17 there is a great deal of Federal land that will keep this
18 area an open and beautiful area. And the last thing we
19 need is an open-pit copper mine that's going to last for
20 19 years and devastate the entire Sonoita, Patagonia,
21 Vail, Tucson, area. So I am adamantly opposed to the
22 construction of this mine.

23 THE MODERATOR: Well, I do believe this
24 concludes our hearing this evening. And I know I can
25 speak on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service, and thank you

1 all for your wonderful, well-prepared, articulate
2 comments, and for taking time to provide public input to
3 the process this evening. We really thank you very much.
4 You've been a very courteous group.

5 And we do want to let you know that the
6 recordings and other documentation will be posted. The
7 availability will be posted on the websites. We don't
8 know when that will be because if there's -- the Forest
9 Service personnel tells me that they're going to try to
10 get things up as soon as possible. But if there's a
11 fire, that's their priority. So if you can just be
12 patient and monitor the website periodically, you will
13 find those materials that are promised.

14 And also, we have two more hearings
15 planned, June 7th and June 30th. Thank you very much,
16 and have a wonderful evening.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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3
4 BE IT KNOWN that I, OLIVIA ARMENTA, RPR, CR
5 No. 50411, took the foregoing proceedings at the time and
6 place stated in the caption hereto; that I was then and
7 there a Certified Reporter in and for the State of
8 Arizona; that the proceedings were reduced to writing
9 under my direction; and that the foregoing pages contain
10 a full, true and accurate transcript of my notes of said
11 proceedings.

12 Dated this 30th day of May, 2008.
13
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16

17 OLIVIA ARMENTA, RPR
18 CR No. 50411
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