

US Forest Service Proposed Rosemont Copper Project Scoping
Hearing

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

SAHUARITA HIGH SCHOOL
350 W. Sahuarita Road
Sahuarita, Arizona
June 7th, 2008
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1 MS. ROZELLE: Good morning. Welcome, everyone. Can
2 you hear me all the way in the back? Okay, good. Thank you.

3 We do appreciate your participating in today's public
4 hearing for the proposed Rosemont Copper Mine Project. My name
5 is Marty Rozelle, and I will be serving as one of the
6 moderators for today's meeting. I'm an independent contractor
7 retained by the Forest Service just for this purpose. I
8 actually live up in Phoenix. So I'm not working on this
9 project.

10 The U.S. Forest Service is most interested in hearing
11 from you today and recording your comments for consideration in
12 the development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
13 And this is the official environmental document for the
14 project. So we'll begin the meeting with some introductions of
15 the folks here from the Forest Service, some brief
16 presentations by Forest Service representatives, and the
17 remainder of the meeting will be devoted to you, and to
18 listening to and recording your comments.

19 If you wish to speak, and have not already done so,
20 you will need to complete a speaker card. It looks like this.
21 And you can hold it up and one of our team members will collect
22 it.

23 And then after today's meeting there is another
24 opportunity -- there will be one more public hearing on June
25 30th in the Tucson area at the Rincon High School. And there

1 will be -- these details are published on the project website.

2 So we have with us today the following people from the
3 U.S. Forest Service. And these folks, as I said before, are
4 here to listen. And they are seated right over here by the
5 speaker podium. Jeanine Derby, who is the Forest Supervisor;
6 Reta Laford, and Reta is the deputy supervisor; Bev Emerson is
7 the forest geologist; Teresa Ann Ciapusci, who is up here with
8 me is the ecosystem management planner for the forest. We also
9 have Keith Graves. And Keith is the Nogales District Ranger.

10 We have other Forest Service people, and the
11 Environmental Consulting Team people, who you may have met as
12 you were coming in. Janet Jones is going to serve as the time
13 keeper, and Janet is down here as well. We'll turn the lights
14 up when it's time for you to give your comments.

15 So, Teresa, are you going first?

16 MS. CIAPUSCI: Yes.

17 MS. ROZELLE: So Theresa Ann Ciapusci will provide an
18 overview of the National Environmental Policy Act process.
19 These presentations, I promise you, are only about ten minutes
20 each. And then she will be followed by Reta to talk about the
21 project. So Teresa Ann?

22 MS. CIAPUSCI: Good morning. House, I need a little
23 bit of light up here. Thanks.

24 Good morning. My name is Teresa Ann Ciapusci. I am
25 an ecosystem management and planning staff officer on the

1 forest, and I'm here to tell you a little about the National
2 Environmental Policy Act, and how this process fits with the
3 National Environmental Policy Act.

4 First, a little overview on the Act itself. The Act
5 was established to do three things. It declared a national
6 policy of environmental responsibility; it provided some
7 procedural requirements the federal agencies use to follow the
8 requirements of the Act; and it created the President's Counsel
9 on Environmental Equality.

10 The next thing that the NEPA did is it looked at some
11 objectives. Why was it created? What was it to do. It was
12 supplemental authority for the forest level decision makers
13 like us, and also for all other federal agencies. It was a
14 procedural reform act. There was some need to change the way
15 the federal agencies were doing their work.

16 It's focused on disclosure of environmental
17 information and resolution of environmental problems. It looks
18 to foster intergovernmental cooperation and coordination, and
19 to more fully include the public in the participation process
20 than was happening before this Act was enacted into law.

21 And overall the main thing we want you to know from
22 the Act today is that it helps us to make informed decisions.
23 Our purpose in this project is to make a decision. And we need
24 that decision to be informed. It needs to inform the decision
25 maker, and it also needs to inform the public.

1 And the way we do that is we go through a process.
2 NEPA is a very flexible process. There are certain steps we
3 must follow, but there is no set order or designated way we do
4 this. But there is a process we have learned, over the twenty
5 years this Act has been in place, that helps us to come out at
6 the end with an Environmental Impact Statement that informs the
7 decision.

8 The first step for this process was to receive a
9 proposal from the mine. So that's called the Mine Plan of
10 Operations. It was submitted by the Rosemont Company, and it
11 includes the information that they submitted after the Forest
12 Service first reviewed their initial submission, and they added
13 additional information.

14 When we got enough of the additional information, we
15 deemed that to be the point where we had enough information to
16 initiate the environmental review process. In our
17 environmental review, in addition to what Rosemont has
18 submitted, we will also consider a no action alternative. We
19 will consider other alternative strategies that meet the
20 purpose and need for doing this project. And we also will
21 consider mitigating ways to reduce environmental effects.

22 We are at the first stage of the NEPA process, and
23 that stage is called the scoping process. And we use this
24 process to determine a number of things. Our goal today, in
25 fact, is to learn what you think about this proposed action and

1 this proposal. We also need to know if you know of points of
2 scientific or technical disagreement, or things that we haven't
3 considered. We need to know who the interested parties are in
4 this. So that's why we have asked you to sign in. And we are
5 collecting a mailing list.

6 We are looking also for analysis needs that will be
7 relevant to this particular decision. And where we have data
8 gaps we're looking for sources of information to fill those
9 data gaps. And we're asking you to tell us if you know of data
10 gaps as well.

11 From that information, in about -- it usually takes
12 about a year, we will produce a document called a Draft
13 Environmental Impact Statement. That will document the
14 analysis results that we have done. It will inform you and the
15 decision maker about what we have learned about this project
16 and its potential effects on the various kinds of environments;
17 physical, biological, social, and economic. And it will
18 provide a venue for you to then provide us, again, another set
19 of constructive comments about what modifications or changes
20 need to be made to that document to make it finalized in a way
21 that we can make a decision from it.

22 After we respond to those comments, we do that in a
23 second document called a Final Environment Impact Statement.
24 And that documents the refinements that we make, based on what
25 we hear from you on that draft, and it's the foundation from

1 which the decision maker, Jeanine Derby, will make the decision
2 on this particular process.

3 Once Jeanine makes her decision we will document that
4 in a third kind of a document called a Record of Decision. And
5 that record of decision will include appeal rights, and it will
6 be used as the basis to complete the Mine Plan of Operations,
7 which will incorporate that decision into it as the final
8 version of that document. So these are kind of parallel
9 documents that work together. This whole set of documents is
10 needed to do the project, if the project is selected.

11 And then finally, the next step would be an
12 administrative review process based on those appeal rights in
13 the Record of Decision. That runs under a whole different set
14 of processes and laws. And whichever ones are applicable to
15 the decision that is made, that's where you'll have another
16 opportunity to participate through an appeal process.

17 And now Reta is going to tell you a little bit about
18 the actual proposal.

19 MS. LAFORD: Welcome. I'm Reta Laford. I'm the Deputy
20 Forest Supervisor of the Coronado. I'm pleased to be here
21 today to hear your comments. I'm also pleased I see several
22 familiar faces from our previous meetings. And I'm very
23 pleased to see some new faces.

24 The comment period does run until July 14th, so to
25 help you facilitate comments we also have available today

1 information about the proposed action on a DVD, a two-set CD,
2 hearing flyer, and my Plan of Operation Summary, as well as
3 information will continue to be posted on the forest website.

4 I would like to briefly describe the proposed action,
5 but I do refer you to the other sources for more detail. The
6 proposed action is 30 miles south of Tucson in the Santa Rita
7 Mountains. It is a proposed open pit mine. The project would
8 consist of approximately 4,400 acres, 1,000 of which are on
9 private land, 3,300 acres are on lands administered by the
10 forest, 75 acres are lands administered by the state of
11 Arizona, 15 acres are administered by the BLM.

12 Most of the pit area would be on private land.
13 However, the majority of support facilities, waste rock and
14 tailings, would be on lands administered by the Forest Service.
15 There will be road construction and reconstruction, as well as
16 construction of buildings and processing facilities.

17 Mining would be for minerals including copper,
18 molybdenum, and silver. Annual production estimates are
19 approximately 230 million pounds of copper, 5 million pounds of
20 molybdenum, 3.5 million ounces of silver, over a nineteen year
21 production span.

22 Ore processing. There are two types of ore present;
23 sulfide and oxide. Each requires a separate processing method.
24 Sulfide ore would be processed by crushing and grinding and
25 concentrating it with reagents. The waste material from this

1 processing would be deposited in the tailing storage area.

2 Oxide ore would be processed using heap leaching and
3 solvent extraction electrowinning. This is done by placing the
4 oxide ore on a lined leach pad and irrigating it with an acidic
5 solution. The solution is then collected and sent to an
6 on-site plant where it is plated into high quality copper
7 sheets. Both the solid concentrates and high quality copper
8 sheets would be transported off site by truck.

9 Waste rock and tailing. Waste rock storage, tailing
10 placement, leach pad, and milling would primarily be on lands
11 administered by the forest located east of the pit area. These
12 would screen other mining activities from Highway 83.

13 Access. The primary access road for the proposed
14 action would be from the State Route 83 between mile post 46
15 and 47. A possible secondary access route is proposed from the
16 west of the property near Gunsight Pass.

17 Utilities. Electricity. The main electrical power
18 supply to the mine would enter the property from the west and
19 east. Passive solar technology would also be used on site to
20 generate electricity.

21 Water. Mine processing water would be pumped from
22 wells on lands owned by the Rosemont Copper Company within the
23 upper Santa Cruz sub basin of the Tucson active management area
24 groundwater basin near Sahuarita. It is estimated that the
25 mine and support facilities would need 5,000 acre feet of water

1 annually.

2 Reclamation. Reclamation, such as waste rock and
3 tailing recontouring and re-vegetation would occur concurrent
4 with mining and processing activities. As the operation
5 progresses leach fields would be closed and buried within the
6 waste rock storage areas. The site would be graded and
7 recontoured. Most building and operating facilities would be
8 removed. Reclamation would be insured through a bonding
9 process.

10 Okay. Today this hearing is for you. It is to allow
11 you the opportunity to provide oral comments specific to the
12 proposed action to help us better understand it, and the
13 options available to us. The comments we receive today have
14 just as much weight as any comments we have received, or will
15 receive, regardless of the form, whether it was hard copy,
16 mail, e-mail, or at a previous meeting. One more slide. Okay,
17 I guess that will be it. Thank you.

18 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Reta. Thank you, Teresa Ann.
19 So we'll have the lights up now. Good. Thank you.

20 So as I mentioned earlier my name is Marty. And I'm
21 going to be the official moderator for today's hearing. We're
22 going to be taking a break, and I'll explain that in a minute.
23 And there's another moderator here named Sue, and she and I
24 will be switching off.

25 So if you have -- if you wish to speak and have

1 cards -- I have got quite a few already -- and they will be
2 making their way up here as the morning goes on. And they're
3 stacked roughly in the order that they were received.

4 So here's how we're going to work this today. Each
5 person who fills out a card will have one opportunity to speak
6 for three minutes. And it's necessary for us to limit that
7 time to three minutes so that we can have as many people to
8 speak as possible within the time we have available. And we
9 anticipate that people will continue to come in and arrive, you
10 know, throughout the morning.

11 We do have a court stenographer, Chris, and he will
12 record all of the comments, all of the questions, and anything
13 that is said, which will be considered then in preparation for
14 the environmental document.

15 The Forest Service representatives will not be taking
16 your time today to provide answers to specific project
17 questions. And because we're in a scoping stage of the project
18 they may not even have the answers at this point. So all
19 comments that we received would be considered in preparation of
20 the Draft Environmental document. And as you heard earlier,
21 that will probably take about a year. And if the same comment
22 is made by a number of different people, even in slightly
23 different ways, the way it works in the environmental document,
24 that becomes one comment or issue and it's addressed once in
25 the environmental document.

1 You can decide to speak later on, if you're moved to
2 do so. So don't worry that you aren't sure, or you haven't put
3 a card in yet. We'll take cards all the way up through 11:30
4 this morning. And then we can continue past noon if there are
5 still people who wish to speak. I believe that we have to be
6 out of here, from the school's standpoint, by 3:00. So we have
7 all the time that you need.

8 So, again, each person would have up to three minutes.
9 And we're not going to permit you to give part or all of your
10 time to someone else so that they would have more than
11 three minutes. We're going to take a ten-minute break every
12 sixty minutes. And we'll be using a timer to keep track of
13 your three minute time. So Janet over here has a timer, and
14 she is going to be our time keeper. She has a card. The
15 speaker podium is right here, and she'll hold it up when
16 there's thirty seconds remaining, and when the time is up.

17 Let's see. Again, we ask you to be courteous in
18 observing the three minute time limit, and also sitting and
19 standing quietly while a speaker is talking. In the event a
20 speaker uses any kind of inappropriate language or continues
21 excessively past the allotted three minutes, by then I'm going
22 to be standing down there looking at you right in the face and
23 say, it's time.

24 We wanted to get a speaker queue going, so we've left
25 this front row open. So I'm going to call four names. And if

1 you all would come on down and be ready. And then just prior
2 to the fourth one getting up I will call three or four more
3 names. And so that's how we'll do it.

4 We have a comment box right down here. There's also
5 one out in the front. So if you want to just stick your
6 comments right in here as soon as you're through, you can do so
7 right here, or out front.

8 Okay. So thank you in advance. And we're going to
9 get started. So the first four speakers, if you would come on
10 down. I have Richard Walden, Larry Kempton, Bill Katzel, and
11 Dick Shuman. All right. And Richard Walden, would you begin,
12 please.

13 RICHARD WALDEN: My name is Dick Walden. I'm
14 president of Farmers Investment Company, known as FICO. I have
15 lived in the Santa Cruz valley for almost 60 years. My father
16 moved FICO here when he purchased the Continental Farm. Today
17 FICO owns 7,000 acres, which is irrigated and cultivated by
18 FICO and it's wonderful employees.

19 The practice of irrigation on these lands dates back
20 hundreds of years to the Hohokam era. Irrigation and
21 agriculture continued to the time of the Spanish occupation,
22 Mexican territorial days, prior to the acquisition by the
23 United States with the Gadsden Purchase.

24 As farmers and stewards of the land we know that the
25 value of land and the value of water are inseparable. We can

1 all relate to the fact that water is the essential item for all
2 of us to survive. And we're very blessed in the Santa Cruz
3 Valley to have high quality ground water.

4 FICO has grave concerns about the Rosemont proposal.
5 To consider using high quality ground water displays poor
6 judgement, bad leadership, and would be a bad political
7 decision. Thorough modeling of the impact of ground water use
8 should be required. The studies should include the impact on
9 potential use of all area water users, including the effects on
10 water levels, energy costs, well equipment costs, well water
11 quality, the effect on the sulphate plume, the effect on the
12 proposed CAP recharge on ground water quality.

13 The upper Santa Cruz aquifer sustains approximately
14 60,000 people, nearly 5,000 acres of orchards, the Freeport
15 McMoRan Copper Mine, and recently the ASARCO mine. The impact
16 on property values and individual property rights is unknown,
17 unquantified at this point. Such damage must be considered.

18 The Forest Service must require Rosemont to provide
19 accurate data as to the true life of this mine. I moved to
20 this valley before open pit mining started here. In the 70's,
21 when FICO sued the mines over their use of groundwater and
22 prevailed in the courts, the mines testified that they had a
23 20-year life span. That was 35 years ago. Those mines today
24 still say that they have a 25 year life. Realistically a mine
25 life is probably 100 years.

1 What will be the impact on excavation, extraction, new
2 holes in the ground, overburdened piles, stacks of maces left
3 for future generations? What will be the effect on our
4 groundwater when this mine operates well beyond it's purported
5 20 years?

6 The effect of Rosemont's water use on the Phelps Dodge
7 sulphate plume is of special concern. If that plume is not
8 contained it will pollute the entire upper Santa Cruz Valley
9 water supply. What a shame. Shame on us for allowing it to
10 happen.

11 How much water will the mine actually use? That
12 damage -- how much damage will it exist (sic) to existing water
13 holders? How can the U.S. Forest Service justify the use of
14 high quality groundwater, the potential damage, and these
15 increased costs to current residents and future generations?

16 Rosemont has made promises to deliver CAP water. This
17 is a stretch of the facts. Rosemont is proposing to build a
18 pipeline for community water and bring community and Green
19 Valley Water District water to the valley. The CAP contract
20 clearly states that the contractor must reduce its pumping
21 equal to the CAP delivery. Ladies and gentlemen, the CAP
22 contracts belong to the community not to Rosemont. We must
23 understand the truth.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you.

1 Our next speaker is Larry Kempton.

2 LARRY KEMPTON: Thank you. My name is Larry Kempton.
3 I'm the community relations manager for the Farmers Investment
4 Company. I was born in Tucson and I'm a resident of Green
5 Valley. I would like to continue the comments of Mr. Walden.

6 The Rosemont Copper Company has made many promises to
7 this community. How can Rosemont contractually guarantee those
8 promises? We all know the story of ASARCO. It was purchased
9 by Grupo Mexico, stripped of it's liquid assets, and forced
10 into bankruptcy while still liable for millions of dollars of
11 environmental violations, including the potential for the town
12 of Hayden to be declared an EPA Superfund site. In the end who
13 pays for such damages? You and me, the tax payers. Is it
14 worth that cost?

15 Who is to say that Rosemont Copper Company, Augusta
16 Resource Corporation, won't be bought and bankrupted while we,
17 the citizens of this valley, would be left to suffer with no
18 recourse. The Forest Service has an obligation, as an agency
19 of the Federal government, to represent and protect the
20 citizens of our community under the National Environmental
21 Policy Act. This obligation clearly includes the alternative
22 of no action, which would mean no mine.

23 We would ask that the Forest Service employ all due
24 caution in its investigation, when there is strong potential
25 that this mine could also be a future EPA Superfund site. The

1 Forest Service must fully understand the mine's impacts to our
2 life-style, our environment, and our culture for the benefit of
3 us, our children, and our grandchildren.

4 This effect of these concerns would impact not just
5 the Farmers Investment Company and its employees, but all of
6 the tens of thousands of residents and land owners in the Santa
7 Cruz Valley.

8 Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today.

9 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you. Bill Katzel. I think if you
10 don't get too close to the microphone you won't get that
11 feedback.

12 BILL KATZEL: My name is Bill Katzel. I have lived
13 for 32 years in this valley. In a former incarnation I was the
14 regulations officer for the U.S. Public Health Service. So I'm
15 intimately familiar with this particular process.

16 I'm a little dismayed that a private contractor is
17 core to this process. When I was a regulations officer we did
18 this process internally by federal officials rather than
19 contract officials. I'm also dismayed that public lands will
20 be used potentially for private purposes.

21 I have a 12 year old granddaughter, and I'm advocating
22 for the future sanctity of the Santa Ritas for her and for
23 future generations. To allow an additional mine to go in and
24 use public lands for waste product is totally inappropriate use
25 of public lands. I would encourage the Forest Service to take

1 no action, thereby bringing this process to a practical end.

2 Thank you so much for the time.

3 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Mr. Katzel. And then before
4 Dick Shuman, just before you start let me have three more come
5 forward. Georgette W. Valle or Valle, Jamie Sturgess, and
6 Bruce Kerrigan, please. Thank you.

7 Go ahead, Dick.

8 DICK SHUMAN: I'm Dick Shuman. I'm a retired
9 professional engineer living in Green Valley for over 30 years.
10 My comments are on behalf of my homeowner's association. I am
11 the Environmental Coordinator for the Casa Paloma I Home
12 Owners' Association. I also am on the Green Valley Community
13 Coordinating Counsel Environmental Committee. I'm also a
14 member of the Citizens' Water Action Coalition.

15 We fully concur with the May 22th letters from
16 representatives Giffords and Grijalva to Jeanine Derby in its
17 entirety, but especially their requests that the current
18 Environmental Impact Statement scoping process be suspended
19 pending a complete mine Plan of Operation.

20 We believe that our October letter, the 2007 letter --
21 pardon me. We believe that your October 19th letter to Jamie
22 Sturgess needs be supplemented to request sufficient
23 information to determine the impact of water withdrawal on our
24 upper Santa Cruz aquifer.

25 We believe that the guidelines in 36-CFR-228-A, part C

1 are sufficiently clear to require a comprehensive hydrological
2 study of our USC -- our Upper Santa Cruz aquifer. We do not
3 believe sufficient information is available to proceed with the
4 preliminary draft of an Environmental Impact Statement. Since
5 Rosemont is all ready to drill wells in the USC aquifer, we
6 believe a comprehensive study is fully justified without any
7 further delays. We also request Rosemont desist from drilling
8 further wells until the Environmental Impact Statement is made
9 and the impact on our aquifer is fully understood.

10 We request that our previously submitted letters of
11 November and December of 2007 be carefully considered. These
12 letters established the crisis nature of our upper Santa Cruz
13 aquifer, and the efforts of the Upper Santa Cruz Providers and
14 Users Group, we call them PUG, that has been formed with the
15 mission of creating broad based, long term solutions to achieve
16 sustainability in our aquifer. Pima County supervisors offered
17 to facilitate and support this group in their efforts.

18 The Green Valley Community Coordinating Council also
19 supports this group, and have notified, by letter, both Pima
20 County and the PUG group. We also believe that our previously
21 submitted March 30th letter should be carefully considered.
22 This contains Senator Gifford's statement that the Forest
23 Service has agreed a community work group will be established
24 to participate in the Environmental Impact Statement process.

25 I do want to make a concluding statement here,

1 although I'm skipping stuff. But I do want to make this and
2 get it on record because it's not in my written one. We
3 believe that the schedule for the NEPA process is unrealistic.
4 We do not believe Rosemont has submitted information to begin
5 the Environmental Impact Statement sufficiently. The necessary
6 studies that would be needed from Rosemont would require well
7 over a year before they should even begin. The EIS also will
8 require a year or more, once you get into that possess.

9 MS. LEWIN: Sir, thank you. You're time is up. Thank
10 you very much.

11 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Mr. Shuman. Georgette Valle.
12 Is it Valle or Valle?

13 GEORGETTE VALLE: Good morning. My name is Georgette
14 Valle, and I'm a resident of Green Valley for about
15 seven years. That is four years we were snowbirds, and then
16 the last three years I have been establishing residence.

17 I would like to say that I am a long time
18 environmentalist. And I would like to say and appreciate how
19 you outlined the National Environmental Policy Act. That was
20 passed in the 80's. And as Ecology Chair of the Washington
21 State Legislature and the House of Representatives -- the state
22 of Washington took water, and took the state position for a
23 long time, and that was because we didn't quite trust the
24 federal government. And I think there is some lack of trust in
25 the federal government today again.

1 I don't need really to remind you that we have had a
2 ten year drought here in Arizona. When Rosemont comes into our
3 state and drills deep, deep wells, of course that threatens
4 particularly the water that we have, and it also threatens well
5 owners in southeast Sahuarita, particularly. We ask you, the
6 United States Forest Service, to hear our pleas for water
7 conservation.

8 The end product of this Rosemont mine is not a product
9 that will benefit the United States or Arizona, it will be
10 shipped to the Far East for consumption and benefit of foreign
11 countries. We ask you to refuse the Rosemont Company, the
12 right to use the 6 to 7,000 acre feet of water they say they
13 will use.

14 And we might also ask the question will the
15 Mt. Hopkins observatory be disturbed by the overpowering
16 activity of the Rosemont open pit mining? We might ask that
17 question over and over again. Please take this scientific
18 achievement in the Santa Rita mountains into your scoping
19 object.

20 Rosemont says the right to use 6 or 7,000 acre feet --
21 you know, we simply don't have that here in the Green Valley
22 area. We don't even control our discharge, the city of Tucson
23 has that. So unincorporated areas are at a premium. And I
24 would say say no to the Rosemont mine.

25 Thank you very much.

1 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Ms. Valle.

2 The next speaker is Jamie Sturgess.

3 JAMIE STURGESS: Good morning. I want to welcome
4 everybody here, whether you are here to learn, or to present
5 opinions, or to present heartfelt feelings.

6 I want to assure you of two things about the Rosemont
7 team that is here. There's a number of us here in the
8 operations group, in the environmental assessment group, our
9 designers and engineers. And without introducing everybody,
10 can everybody who is on the Rosemont team maybe just put your
11 hand up, if you would. Okay. A few here. We have a tour of
12 130 people going on up at the project site this afternoon, so
13 some may have already left.

14 But I want you to know two things after today. We are
15 here to listen today. I'm not here to convince anybody that
16 this mine, that you should support it. I'm not here to tell
17 you that if you do support it, or oppose it. This is a process
18 that's designed to help it get designed as best it can be.

19 I want one thought to come through. We are listening
20 very carefully. And I assure you nobody in the world is going
21 to read the comments, and listen to these comments more
22 carefully than our design team and our people putting the
23 project together.

24 The people that are designing Rosemont for the most
25 part live it Tucson, have lived in Tucson, and are from Arizona

1 or have worked here for many, many years. We are not from
2 Japan. We are not from Canada. The company was chartered in
3 Canada because Canada has the same culture for mineral
4 development that the Silicon Valley in California does. That's
5 why so many copper mines have -- or mining companies have
6 started in Canada.

7 Water. Everybody is concerned about water, as well we
8 should be in the desert. I have been working in the Green
9 Valley area since 1986 when I was with Cypress Copper Company.
10 I can assure you we're well aware of the history, and the
11 legacies, and the challenges. But there is also opportunities.

12 So I'm here to just say if this society that we all
13 live in -- and the products the copper is used for will be made
14 by Americans, made in America. Even if our copper goes to
15 China or overseas there's other products that come back that we
16 do use that use the same materials.

17 And this mine has the potential to represent 10
18 percent of this nation's copper production for 20 years. That
19 may not be significant to some of you, but it is to me. And if
20 you think of children and grandchildren, the legacy of having
21 access to copper at a domestic source is of national
22 importance. And that's the reason I think we need to take more
23 than just a local look. The local look is always important,
24 it's certainly foremost in all of our minds. So then I want to
25 say we're listening, but we're also acting.

1 So the two promises that we have, as a company, to
2 make is that we're going to listen to the suggestions, and we
3 have had a lot of suggestions. The comments that have come in
4 so far have affected where we put the plant, where we put the
5 mill, where we got the water, placement of water.

6 I signed an agreement yesterday with an attorney
7 representing over 50 well owners in the Sahuarita Heights area
8 to promise that we would replace their well, replace their
9 pumps before we would take water out and leave any people
10 stranded. That's going to be secured with third party funding.
11 We are serious about doing this. And my time is up.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Mr. Sturgess.

14 And let me call a few more names to come on down.
15 Grace Bee, Bill Wright, Fermin Samarano, I'm not sure I'm
16 saying that -- and Diane Hanna. All right.

17 So our next speaker is Bruce Kerrigan.

18 BRUCE KERRIGAN: Good morning. My name is Bruce
19 Kerrigan. I have been in Arizona 61 years. I have made my
20 living off the mines for the last 45, since I was a kid. I
21 need to urge you to let this mine go through. The United
22 States is in trouble. A lot of the problems we have are a
23 result of importing from foreign countries. Anything the
24 United States can mine, manufacture, or farm, we need to do at
25 home. We need to shut off these imports, and this is a great

1 place to start. It's a product that everyone of us uses. If
2 you don't believe it, you can walk home. You won't have a car.
3 You won't have a bicycle if we don't mine these materials.

4 My short time with the Rosemont Group that I have met,
5 they're probably the most socially conscious group of miners
6 that I have met in 40 years. I think their intents are good.
7 I think they're going to amaze a lot of people. And I have
8 been in mines all over the world, and these are good people.
9 So thank you.

10 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Mr. Kerrigan.

11 The next speaker is Grace Bee.

12 GRACE BEE: Hi, my name is Grace Bee. I live in Vail.
13 And I am compelled to voice my concerns regarding the Rosemont
14 mine in the Santa Rita mountains with respect to how this
15 operation may affect the citizens and families of the
16 surrounding communities. I oppose the plans for the Rosemont
17 site in the Coronado National Forest.

18 My main concern is the negative impact that this
19 operation would have on our local residents and tourist economy
20 due to noise and water pollution and increased truck traffic on
21 our local highways. To alleviate traffic on public roads a
22 system of private loads on forestry land, maintained by
23 Augusta, may be a better alternative than allowing the mine's
24 equipment to damage the public roads.

25 It is widely known that the processing of ore impacts

1 aquatic resources. Currently most of the mining in Pima County
2 is performed using open pit mines which process the ore via a
3 flotation process using water. The rejected materials from
4 this process are then discarded into tailings ponds where the
5 water evaporates leaving a large pile of mineralized materials.

6 Possible impacts on aquatic inhabitants from mining
7 include the reduction of water resources from increased
8 groundwater pumping, viseltation (phonetic) of streams, and
9 reduced water quality due to runoff from the tailings pilings.
10 Although Augusta claims that the open pit mine would not use
11 water from the watershed, I urge a legal and binding written
12 agreement to be made.

13 Although efforts are made to contain tailings piles
14 and other sources of runoff, leaching of exposed tailings
15 surfaces or waste dumps and unintended leaks from other
16 facilities are common occurrences at mine sites. This could
17 result in the release of potentially toxic heavy metals and
18 other chemicals into ground and surface waters draining into
19 local water supplies.

20 Of equal concern is the ability to replace the water
21 that will inevitably be depleted by virtue of the mining
22 process. Augusta claims they would use groundwater from west
23 of the mine, and then buy Central Arizona Project water to
24 replace it. With the current drought conditions that our
25 Southwestern states have been subject to, the ability to buy

1 water in the future is certainly not guaranteed.

2 There is also a massive amount of historic evidence
3 that indicates that should this mine prove not to yield what is
4 currently forecast and the project abandoned, the typical
5 legacy left behind is an irreversible impact to the native fish
6 and wildlife, the water quality, and the inevitable visual
7 blight. Public involvement is essential. Only then can
8 thoughtful and knowledgeable decisions be made regarding the
9 mine.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Ms. Bee.

12 The next speaker is Bill Wright.

13 BILL WRIGHT: My name is Bill Wright. I moved to
14 Arizona in the late 60's. I have been associated with the
15 mining industry ever since. And I want to reiterate what
16 Mr. Kerrigan said. The United States needs the resources. We
17 need to build this mine. And I'm sure Rosemont is doing
18 everything state of the art to take care of the water problems,
19 and the leaching problems, and these problems that are coming
20 up. They would not be starting this mine unless everything was
21 covered and everything was taken care.

22 The United States -- Arizona needs the jobs. Arizona
23 needs the taxes. If you look at what the governor is saying,
24 we have got big shortfalls. We're losing tax money. This
25 would help the state. This would help the city. This would

1 help the county.

2 And I urge everybody to rethink this and to back
3 Rosemont, and to back this mine 100 percent. Thank you very
4 much.

5 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Mr. Wright.

6 Our next speaker is -- is it Fermin --

7 FERMIN SAMARANO: Samarano.

8 MS. ROZELLE: Samarano. Thank you.

9 FERMIN SAMARANO: Good morning. My name is Fermin
10 Samarano. I'm the mine manager for Rosemont Copper. I have
11 been with the company a little less than a month. I was born
12 and raised in Tucson, Arizona. I attended Pueblo High School,
13 and eventually the University of Arizona.

14 I come from a long line of miners. My father's great
15 uncle, uncle and brother, plus six of my mother's brothers, and
16 two of her brother-in-laws all worked in mining to help support
17 their families here in Southern Arizona. I also benefited from
18 mining while I was at the university. I worked the summers at
19 the local mines to be able to pay for my university to be able
20 to advance my education.

21 At the time I graduated the local mines were not
22 accepting any mining engineers, and I went to work at ASARCO
23 Ray, where I worked in various positions to develop my career.
24 And soon after that six years I went and worked internationally
25 for a couple of years because the mining industry was at a low

1 here in southern Arizona. And I've gotten a chance to see
2 mining in Venezuela, Bolivia and Mexico. Where in these
3 countries I have got to see -- I've been involved in a lot of
4 reclamation efforts to help advance technology in mining.

5 When the Rosemont Copper, when I saw that they were
6 trying to develop a mine in southern Arizona I saw a great
7 opportunity to return to southern Arizona and be back with my
8 family.

9 I think this mine will generate several needed jobs in
10 the area. And they're going to do it in a environmentally
11 responsible manner. When I interviewed I got a chance to
12 review the project details. And I got to see that many
13 engineers have done research and engineering work to be sure to
14 implement modern techniques that will guarantee the success of
15 the project. And I hope these public forums give us more
16 information to continue to develop these new techniques to
17 advance the project.

18 When I was offered the position of mine manager I
19 talked to my family and talked about benefits that were going
20 to come due to the project. And I believe we have a chance to
21 develop a modern, environmentally friendly mine with the
22 potential to generate several jobs for southern Arizona.

23 Since I have been back I have had a chance to talk to
24 a lot of my high school buddies and people that I have known,
25 and my cousins I have grown up with. And the lack of jobs in

1 Arizona concerns me. So this will be a chance to generate jobs
2 for future generations.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Mr. Samarano.

5 All right. I have got four more names to call to come
6 forward. Dan Meyer, Tom Ward, Janet McCormack, and Mylan Webb.

7 And Diane Hanna, would you go ahead and speak, please.

8 DIANE HANNA: Hello. I am Diane Hanna. Excuse me, I
9 have allergies. I live off of Hilton Ranch Road. Divide and
10 conquer. This has been a successful tactic in confrontation
11 since the beginning of mankind, and it does work. It's working
12 with the Rosemont mine right now.

13 We have water associations and companies making
14 agreements with Augusta Corporation and leaving their neighbors
15 to deal with it individually. Divide and conquer. We will
16 only succeed if we band together.

17 The remark made by an executive officer of Augusta
18 Corporation, that if the well goes dry it's because it wasn't
19 drilled deep enough and would have gone dry anyway, I have
20 found to show both his arrogance, and it was insulting at the
21 same time.

22 My well off from State Route 83 has been at the same
23 static level for 30 years. If it goes dry after the mine goes
24 in it's not because it wasn't deep enough, it's because they
25 put a 2,900 foot deep pit in the ground and drained the water

1 from the valley. Water flows down to the lowest spot. And
2 it's not only my well, it's all my neighbors' wells too.

3 It's not only the water, which itself is enough to say
4 no to the mine, it's the quality of our air, safety on our
5 roads for our loved ones, and safety in the future for our
6 school buses that have to travel the roads.

7 And don't forget the reason you moved out here, the
8 beauty of our surroundings. And tailings, no matter what you
9 do with them, can not look like the original landscape again.
10 Look across the valley. That started with one mine. The
11 domino effect will happen again. If we work together, which is
12 what these meetings have been about, we can win this. And, you
13 know, we will.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Ms. Hanna.

16 Our next speaker is Dan Meyer.

17 DAN MEYER: These notes are too small for me to read.
18 I hope I don't blow this.

19 My name is Dan Meyer. I'm a recent Green Valley
20 resident. I'm a retired forester. And my career has been in
21 forest management of very large forests and outdoor recreation,
22 and in river conservation. And looking back over the Organic
23 Act that established the Forest Service I noted that the main
24 mission of this new organization was going to be to assure
25 protection of the existing forests and secure a continuous flow

1 of timber. That shouldn't surprise us. What might be
2 surprising is the second major objective was to secure a
3 sustained flow of water.

4 Now the connection between the mountains and the river
5 has been known at least as far as back as Ancient Asia where
6 the proverb said, if you want to save a river, save the
7 mountain.

8 So I'm against the Rosemont mine because I think the
9 economic and environmental damage will far exceed any economic
10 benefit. With due respect to those people that earn their
11 money from the mines. It's a valuable and noble profession.

12 But my observation is most of these economic
13 enterprises depend on profit from the use of free goods. A
14 free good is like our clean air, our clean water, our scenery,
15 and public lands. I don't think this -- and I'm not the first
16 to say it -- this enterprise would even exist if it wasn't for
17 the free good of 3,300 acres of Forest Service lands. There's
18 no rent paid. There might be some bonding, but how would we
19 secure it from a company going bankrupt half way through the
20 deal? So take away the free good and you don't have an
21 economic enterprise here.

22 Just use your common sense. You don't need to be a
23 mining engineer. 99.5 percent of the material that is going to
24 be moved around is waste. Just think of the carbon imprint of
25 that. So 30 seconds, I would only say to my Forest Service

1 brethren who are here, think back to what brought you into
2 forestry. It probably was a love for the natural environment
3 and a desire to public service. Do both and vote no action.

4 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Mr. Meyer.

5 Tom Ward, our next speaker.

6 TOM WARD: Good morning. My name is Tom Ward and I'm
7 a resident of Green Valley. I have owned my home there for
8 more than five years. And I speak to you today as chairman of
9 the Environmental Committee of the Villas East Condominium
10 Association.

11 Villas East is composed of nearly 800 people. It's a
12 retirement community, and all 476 of our homes face the
13 beautiful Santa Rita Mountains. Our main concern in speaking
14 today is our concern about water, or perhaps I should say the
15 lack of water.

16 First let me say personally I'm an admirer of the
17 Forest Service. I, through my own resources, have donated
18 funds to plant trees in our national forests. I'm a member of
19 the Nature Conservancy. And when I grew up as a lad in
20 up-state New York a long, long time ago, the progenitors of the
21 Forest Service, Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, were
22 boyhood heros of mine, and they still are.

23 Today, on behalf of Village East, we ask the Forest
24 Service to reject the Augusta Resources Corporation's plan of
25 operations by voting no action. I have several figures here,

1 but with such a limited amount of time, we will be submitting
2 information later before your July 14th deadline. But let me
3 use just a couple of numbers that we have drawn from the Upper
4 Santa Cruz Providers and Users Group, which you have heard
5 about earlier, that has the euphonious name of PUG.

6 As of 2006 more than 39,000 acre feet of overdraft
7 were taken out of our aquifer. Even with projections of the
8 pecan lands being converted to housing, a projection I'm not
9 sure is going to happen over the next 25 years, in 2028 there
10 will still be, there would still be more than 30,000 acre feet
11 of overdraft a year coming out of the aquifer. And that, of
12 course, does not include any water to be used for the Rosemont
13 mine. Without Rosemont mine we still would have -- and this is
14 just projecting into the future, more than 30,000. I know
15 there may be a pipeline, but to me that's just -- and to all of
16 our people, that's just a red herring.

17 Let me just say -- I have 30 seconds left, so I can't
18 use all of these other wonderful figures I have here. Again, I
19 would ask you to reject the mine plan of operations. And I
20 want to say this, just in conclusion, that I mentioned Teddy
21 Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot at the beginning of this little
22 chat, and those people were involved in, and cared about --
23 those people were involved in and cared about the Forest
24 Service because they wanted the people to be able to use the
25 trees.

1 So I ask you, the mine service -- the Forest Service
2 to think about that and reject the mine so that we can continue
3 to use those trees.

4 Thank you very much.

5 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Mr. Ward.

6 The next speaker is Janet McCormack.

7 JANET MCCORMACK: I'm Janet McCormack. I represent
8 many of those people in this part of the world who are passing
9 through. I was born and raised in northwest Missouri, right
10 where Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri meet on the central flyway
11 in the very rich riparian habitat. Since that time, and coming
12 out here, I'm an educator, or an edutainer. I have been
13 involved in a number of activities, too numerous to mention in
14 just 3 minutes.

15 I commend all of you for being here and representing
16 humanity here in this nation where we are free to come to this
17 process. I welcome the Rosemont people here. I am not opposed
18 to mining if it is done for the right reason, with the right
19 technologies, at the right time, in the right place, and
20 definitely for the right reason. Unfortunately, every piece of
21 information I have been able to gather since this came up two
22 years ago to my attention, it's all wrong. I'm sorry, but it's
23 all wrong.

24 We're in the wrong place; sticking another mine on
25 this valley. We have got water issues. With have got habitat

1 issues. We have got historical and archival issues. The list
2 goes on and on. But as we saw up here today, we're here to
3 find out any other data to look at.

4 And I feel for you, Ms. Derby, with your
5 responsibility. Made God grant you the grace to make good
6 decisions here. My position is no action for the Forest
7 Service.

8 I am concerned nobody is telling me what is going to
9 happen to the stuff, to the molybdenum, the silver, and the
10 copper when it goes out of here and it's put in something that
11 is obsolescent. Where is all of the molybdenum, the copper,
12 and the silver that we human beings have already mined on this
13 planet that is not in current use that went into the waste
14 stream and it's sitting somewhere in a landfill, bottom of the
15 ocean, or some place else?

16 Let's close the loop on our waste. Let's put our
17 energies in that before we start destroying more habitat that
18 is beneficial to our survival as human beings on this planet.
19 Thank you for being here. And god bless all of you. May the
20 decisions be to the benefit of all of us now and all our future
21 generations.

22 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Ms. McCormack.

23 Before I call the next speaker I'll call four more,
24 and then at the end of this next group we'll take a short
25 break. So if Frances Walker, Elizabeth Webb, Jim Kramp and

1 Carl Anderson would come on down as well.

2 And Mylan Webb, if you would go ahead. Thank you.

3 MYLAN WEBB: My name is Mylan Webb, and I'm a student
4 at Cienega High School in Vail Arizona. My school district is
5 within boundaries that are about 425 miles around. Within
6 those boundaries we have seven elementary schools, four middle
7 schools, and four high schools. We have one regular park with
8 grass, ball fields and playground equipment that is open all of
9 the time, and that is in the city limits. We have only somewhat
10 regular park in the County, and that is shared with my high
11 school.

12 We have no library in our 425 square miles. We have
13 no community center, and we have no sheriff substation. I know
14 this from helping my mother with her volunteer bond work in the
15 past. During the summer my mother drives 80 miles, round trip,
16 to my basketball games twice a week at Flowing Wells High
17 School. We do have open space conservation areas, natural
18 parks, and attractions you can pay to see.

19 Some interesting things we have in our 425 mile
20 boundaries are the following: A few proposed limestone mines,
21 several gravel mines, an extra high voltage electric substation
22 with a city of Tucson zoning permit to become a power
23 generating facility, a natural gas compressor facility, several
24 cell towers, two sets of railroad tracks, two 345 KVA lines
25 with a third proposed line, the interstate, the doppler radar,

1 hundreds of abandoned mine shafts, 663 wide and overweight
2 vehicle permits on State Route 83 in 2007, Titan II Missile
3 Silo sites, the Kinder Morgan liquid gas line, the El Paso
4 natural gas line, and probably more things I do not have
5 listed. Again, zero libraries, zero community centers, zero
6 sheriff's substations.

7 My questions are these. 1. Why does it seem like my
8 community has been abandoned by the Coronado National Forest
9 Service in this process?

10 2. If Rosemont Copper plans to work in my school
11 district and have all of these employees with kids -- who will
12 add to an already crowded situation in the schools where we
13 have no library, community center, and only two regular
14 parks -- is it going to give us any before it starts mining, if
15 it is allowed to go in? They seem to be promising things to
16 everyone else.

17 And 3. How come we do not have a meeting like this in
18 Vail? I volunteered at the Vail Open house Forest Service
19 meeting, and it was very good. It is our community that will
20 have the mine if it is allowed. We'll have the people. We
21 will have the trucks on the Sonoita Highway and the freeway.
22 We will have the dust. We will have the lights, the noise,
23 have our water blocked. And we will have the leftover mess.

24 Why didn't we have a meeting where we could talk too?
25 It costs us a lot of money in diesel to drive here because

1 there was not a meeting scheduled in our area, when our area is
2 the one that is most affected.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Ms. Webb.

5 Frances Walker.

6 FRANCES WALKER: My name is Frances Walker, and I am a
7 student at Cienega High School in Vail Arizona. I live in the
8 Empire Mountains southeast of Vail Arizona. And I ride a bus
9 on Sonoita Highway, State Route 83 to school in the morning and
10 home in the afternoon/evening. There are kids who ride the
11 same bus every day from the town of Sonoita also.

12 You see, where I live we are not technically in the
13 Vail School District, we are in the Empire Elementary School
14 District, which does not have middle schools or high schools.
15 A lot of us go to the Vail School District schools. We live
16 near a lot of old mines, which we enjoy visiting, but realize
17 they are also extremely dangerous to people who are not use to
18 being around them.

19 There are rattlesnakes, bats, bobcats, and skunks.
20 Sometimes if you're not paying attention you can almost back up
21 and fall into deep holes where the barbed wired had been pushed
22 down. We also visit old buildings with our friends and try to
23 scare them.

24 My friend and neighbor, Mylan, has her driver's permit
25 now, and I will have one in the future. My older brothers

1 drive on State Route 83, and so does Mylan's brother when he
2 comes home from college. We have other friends from school who
3 drive on State Route 83.

4 My first question is this. Is the Coronado National
5 Forest going to require that Rosemont Copper pay for
6 specialized driver's training in the Vail Schools on how to
7 avoid mining trucks on skinny, curvy mountain roads if it
8 grants this permit?

9 Mylan and I know a lot about the mine because we live
10 in the area, and our parents are active community volunteers.
11 If it weren't for that we would not know very much about it.

12 My next two questions are these. Being that our
13 community is the one that will be the one that will have to
14 deal with all of the problems associated with the proposed
15 mine, what kind of educational outreach has the Coronado
16 National Forest been doing to reach school age people? It has
17 not been in our area before, but has it been in any other
18 school districts?

19 Next question. Because our school district would have
20 to deal with all of these problems from mining vehicles on
21 State Route 83, I-10 to Benson, I-10 to the Port of Tucson, the
22 horrible intersection of State Route 83 and I-10, more kids in
23 the schools, our water being stopped from mining rocks, dust,
24 lights and noise at night. What is the Coronado National
25 Forest planning to make Rosemont Copper give back to Vail and

1 the Vail School District if it grants this permit?

2 Last question. What kind of guilt will the Coronado
3 National Forest feel or bear if it approved this permit and one
4 of us died or became permanently disabled in a mining truck
5 accident on State Route 83?

6 Thank you.

7 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Ms. Walker.

8 Elizabeth Webb.

9 ELIZABETH WEBB: My name is Elizabeth Webb. I'm a
10 Vail Cienega Corridor volunteer, and I live in the Empire
11 Mountains southeast of Vail, Arizona. My home to Rosemont Camp
12 is approximately 8.9 miles. My home to Rosemont Junction is
13 approximately 7.03 miles.

14 The first picture in State Route value tree (sic) has
15 a bus stop. This bus stop is approximately 5 miles from
16 Rosemont camp. This bus stop is approximately 3.5 miles from
17 Rosemont junction. Ms. Laford just stated the access road
18 would be between mile post 46 and 47. So more realistically,
19 because this bus stop is between mile post 49 and 50, it's
20 approximately 2.5 miles, would be more accurate.

21 Also, the number of Forest Service meetings and
22 hearings has been nine, or will be nine. The number of
23 meetings we have had in our affected our community is one, and
24 that's because we begged for 8 hours. And we had help from
25 Congresswoman Gifford's office. Why? What will it take to get

1 the Forest Service to see us? Who will value these lives that
2 will be lost or will be damaged? Are we lost for the trees?

3 Rosemont copper is trying to make a buck. That's the
4 American way. What is the Forest trying to do? It is our fire
5 departments who will have to respond to these accidents. There
6 is not a fire district there. Who will pay for those
7 accidents? It is our roads, it is our air. It is our right to
8 quiet enjoyment. It is our water that will be blocked. Let me
9 ask you again, what will it take to get the forest to see us?

10 To quote something that was recently used at a zoning
11 hearing I attended, what are you afraid of? Do you believe
12 that if you ignore us long enough we'll go away? I brought
13 these visual aids today because I want the Forest to see that
14 we are people. That there are people who live in our area who
15 will be directly impacted by the proposed action. There are
16 people who would travel and visit the area who will be impacted
17 by the proposed action.

18 I want the forest to see that when it makes comments
19 such as, "It is not as beautiful as, say, Madera Canyon on the
20 west side of the Santa Ritas", it shows bias, and it affects
21 the people who live on, and visit the east side.

22 I will close with this question. When did the Forest
23 lose itself so badly that it can not engage the 60,000 or so
24 people who live within the Vail unified school district?

25 Thank you.

1 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Ms. Webb.

2 Jim Kramp.

3 JIM KRAMP: Good morning. Can you hear me okay?

4 My name is Jim Kramp. I live on Hilton Ranch Road in
5 Pima County as well, very close to the mine. Our home is about
6 6 miles from the center of the mine pit.

7 State Route 83 has been proposed as the primary access
8 route for the Rosemont mine. On September 20th of 1985 Highway
9 83 became the second highway in Arizona to be designated as a
10 scenic byway by the Arizona Department of Transportation. It
11 is a winding, two-lane road with numerous guardrails, few
12 shoulders, narrow lanes, and spectacular views.

13 Travelers along 83 can see the numerous skidmarks and
14 damaged guardrails that are prevalent throughout the journey,
15 and are indicative of the number of accidents that occur. From
16 March 1 of 2002 to February 28th of 2007, a five year period,
17 the Arizona Department of Transportation recorded 148 accidents
18 from I-10 to mile post 42, a 16 mile long stretch. This is
19 nearly two accidents per mile, per year. Half of the accidents
20 involved injuries, and there were five fatalities. Seven of
21 the accidents involved alcohol, zero involved drugs.

22 The typical traffic consists of tourists, nature
23 buffs, motorcyclists, bicyclists, and recreation vehicles. It
24 is also used daily by residents and school buses. I have
25 traveled State Route 83 daily for over ten years and have

1 witnessed many accident scenes and helicopter rescues. The
2 Arizona DPS has forced me off the road dozens of times to make
3 room for wide and oversized loads. ADOT records show 663
4 permitted loads on highway 83 in 2007 alone. It is currently
5 used to route oversized loads traveling on I-10 and unable to
6 pass under the Marsh Station bridge or too heavy to transport
7 over the Davidson Canyon bridge.

8 The additional traffic from the 500 workers proposed
9 by Rosemont, the 180 trips by their ore haulers per day, and
10 the other trucks transporting hazard materials to the mine will
11 turn Highway 83 into a death trap.

12 I propose that Highway 83 should not be used for the
13 Rosemont mine's primary access. Other alternatives must be
14 found. Before Highway 83 could be designated the primary
15 access road I propose a study be performed to identify changes
16 to make it safe. Modifications recommended in the study should
17 be completed prior to the mine's opening. If it can not be
18 made safe then another route should be used.

19 At a minimum the study should consider redesign of the
20 I-10 Highway and Highway 83 interchange. The widening of
21 Highway 83 to four lanes to allow passing, handle the increased
22 traffic, and support the heavy loads without requiring frequent
23 maintenance. Improvements on I-10 to eliminate the need to use
24 Highway 83 for oversized and overweight loads.

25 Communications should be improved along Highway 83 so

1 accidents can be reported. I have had people come to my home
2 asking to use a telephone. There is no cell service out there.
3 I think that would probably be a good solution for safety
4 there.

5 Access for rescue helicopters should be considered.
6 Currently they block the road. And they land on Highway 83 if
7 they need to rescue. Training and equipment to handle
8 hazardous materials should be provided to our fire fighters on
9 an ongoing basis.

10 And one last point. Increased traffic from the
11 proposed portland cement mine and the Passages of Tucson should
12 also be considered. The Passages of Tucson will contain a
13 resort, a hospital, an office center, and shopping complexes.
14 When these are completed they will greatly increase the public
15 and commercial traffic using the I-10 and State Route 83
16 interchange.

17 Thank you very much.

18 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Mr. Kramp.

19 And Carl Anderson.

20 CARL ANDERSON: Good morning. My name is Carl
21 Anderson. I'm from Rain Valley Loop Road. I live about 30
22 miles southeast from here.

23 The first thing I would like to say is I'm for no
24 action. I would like to ask a question of the Forest Service,
25 as far as why when we had the Power Point presentation there

1 aren't any slides up there that show no action? That is the
2 pristine environment that's going to be changed. Also I would
3 like to complement those people who have articulated some of
4 those ideas that I was going to speak to.

5 Number one, this is a foreign, multi-national
6 corporation that's going to do business here. It obviously is
7 using a stronger Canadian dollar to exploit the environment,
8 Forest Service environment.

9 It's already been stated most large mining
10 corporations in the United States, some of them have been owned
11 or are owned by Mexico, India, and Canadians. Nothing against
12 Canadians. My mother was an illegal immigrant from Canada.

13 Other people have already spoke to the fact of light
14 pollution, air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution.
15 All of these things result in my main reason for speaking.
16 That is, all of these things contribute to a change in culture.
17 That culture that has developed here for centuries; the
18 Hohokam, the Tohono O'Odham people, the Inde people, who we
19 know as the Apache.

20 I need to ask the question also what kind of neighbors
21 do you want? I say no action, because these neighbors are going
22 to change culture. I think it would be to the best interest of
23 all of us here in the Forest Service that more study be done,
24 as far as the artifacts that are contained within this area.
25 What kind of neighbor do you want?

1 No doubt the environment will be destroyed. The mine,
2 milled tailings, roads, pipelines, overhead lines, all of the
3 other support that goes with this mine are going to change
4 things or destroy things relative to wildlife, cultural
5 artifacts, and those places of solitude for various
6 recreational activities. This neighbor will destroy all of
7 this, including the traditional way of life that I have already
8 spoke to.

9 The indigenous people respected the environment. The
10 natural environment reflects culture, respect. They share this
11 respect with people who came into this area, and those people
12 ended up being the ranchers. It is called Rosemont Ranch, by
13 the way. The indigenous people respected the cowboys. The
14 ranchers respect the environment.

15 I say the best action is no action, because no action
16 will maintain the cultural values that are truly American and
17 truly show the respect for the environment.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Mr. Anderson.

20 And we will take a break now. But let me tell you
21 who's up for right after the break is Anne Gibson, Nancy
22 Freeman, Tom Purdon, Gail Holman, Donna Severidt.

23 And so we will return right at 10:30 by that clock
24 back there. And if you all would come on down in the front.

25 Thank you.

1 (BREAK)

2
3 MS. LEWIN: Again, we would like our speakers to sit
4 in the front row. We have Anne Gibson, Nancy Freeman, Tom
5 Purdon, Gail Holman, and Donna Severidt. And we do have a few
6 housekeeping issues to cover before we get started again.

7 My name is Sue Lewin, and like Dr. Marty Rozelle I am
8 also an independent consultant. And I'm not working directly
9 on the project.

10 And we have had a request from our court stenographer
11 to move to the front row on this side of the room so that he
12 can hear better. It was hard for him to hear behind people.
13 So we're going to request that everybody avoid coming in on
14 that side because there's a lot of cords there. We don't want
15 anybody tripping or unplugging or court stenographer. So if
16 you would try to come through this side.

17 And we would ask that you come up as speakers and sit
18 here. When you are finished speaking we ask that you take your
19 seat in the audience, please. And this is just for safety
20 reasons, trying to keep only a few people up front. Thank you
21 so much.

22 And we also apologize for the temperature. We
23 recognize that it's warm in here. And we did have the off-site
24 HVAC engineer come, and we should be comfortable pretty soon
25 here.

1 So we would like to go ahead and get started. Anne.

2 ANNE GIBSON: Hello. My name is Anne Gibson. My
3 family is now into our fifth generation of ranching in the
4 Sonoita Valley. I am very concerned for the sustainability of
5 our homeland and of this countryside for the future
6 generations. Sustainability, environmental and economically,
7 so that my grandchildren can continue to live strongly,
8 healthy, and successful lives here.

9 I encourage ongoing consideration for alternatives to
10 open pit mining of our non renewable resources and the use of
11 our water. As our population continues to grow the good earth
12 is being devoured and leaving behind moonscapes.

13 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Anne.

14 Nancy Freeman.

15 NANCY FREEMAN: Nancy Freeman, Groundwater Awareness
16 League. The most insidious damage that mining can do is to our
17 groundwater pumping, and that is subsidence. Subsidence will
18 not be noted until it's too late. Now Rosemont says they will
19 deepen wells. Now obviously there's a limit to how much these
20 wells can be deepened. But even so, as they are deepened the
21 ground will compact.

22 So we are asking for certain studies to be done to
23 reconstruct the history of past groundwater decline and
24 regional subsidence. Use satellite and terrestrial information
25 to evaluate subsidence since 1992. Perform deep drilling bore

1 hole geophysical surveys and hydrological testing to
2 characterize the aquifer system. Analyze the current aquifer
3 water budget amount, naturally or artificially recharged,
4 versus withdrawals. Protect the magnitude and rate of
5 groundwater declines that may be caused by the added pumping.
6 Develop comprehensive monitoring program to further quantify
7 the rate and distribution of subsidence. Model the ongoing
8 subsidence. Predict the future impact, and zone the earth
9 fissure risk. It is imperative that we address subsidence as
10 part of the environmental impact analysis.

11 There's a couple of other things in regard to water
12 that I wanted to mention. Number one, Augusta claims to be
13 recharging CAP water, and claims that they will recharge it in
14 the region if they build a pipeline. The truth is they are
15 using excess credit CAP water. That water is only available on
16 a yearly contract. And everyone knows that excess CAP water
17 will not be available forever, certainly not for twenty years.
18 The prediction is until 2011. So the water issue is also from
19 the dewatering of the pit.

20 And also the Rosemont mine has a non area, or the
21 Rosemont Ranch has a non exempt well. So we are very concerned
22 about water, and we want the Forest Service to address our
23 concerns.

24 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Nancy.

25 Before our next speaker comes would Ray Carroll and

1 Chet Davis come up also in the queue. Thank you.

2 Tom Purdon.

3 TOM PURDON: Thank you very much. Good morning. I'm
4 Tom Purdon. I'm a twenty year resident of the state of
5 Arizona. Six year resident of Green Valley over at Madera
6 Foothills Estates, which borders right on the experimental USA,
7 U of A Grassland Experimental Range. That wonderful opening
8 bajada, the gateway to Madera Canyon and the Santa Rita range.

9 Though I am very active with the Scenic Santa Rita
10 Group, and the Friends of Madera Canyon, I put my name in the
11 hat this morning to speak for myself as a very, very concerned
12 citizen.

13 I could go to for literally hours about how important
14 it is to protect that beautiful range for the future. Many
15 other folks have already mentioned it, and I know they feel as
16 passionately as I do about it. But I think I want to use what
17 little time I have and focus once more on water, and call
18 attention to a reference that perhaps the U.S. Forest Service
19 already knows about. And several of you in the audience have
20 heard me rail about this.

21 But it's out of the National Geographic, February of
22 this year. And one of the previous speakers spoke to the
23 drought cycle we're in. If I might just make two short
24 sentences quoting verbatim. "The wet 20th century, the wettest
25 of the past millennium, the century when Americans built an

1 incredible civilization in the desert, is over". The next
2 direct quote. "Under the pressure of the drought the seven
3 Colorado Basin states have agreed, for the first time, on how
4 to share prospective shortages". Nancy mentioned shortages.
5 "Arizona will bear almost all of the pain at first because the
6 Central Arizona Project, which came on line in 1993, Arizona
7 has junior status rights. Nevada will only lose a small
8 percentage of its allotment. Meanwhile California will give up
9 nothing, at least until Lake Mead falls below 1,025 feet,
10 nearly 200 feet below the full status".

11 This is credible scientific information. The promise,
12 dare I say the slick promise that we'll just take care of this
13 water concern with CAP water -- I swear, if you took a group of
14 average citizens who didn't know about this issue here, and put
15 them in a room and say, what do you think about the idea of a
16 foreign national company, with not very much of a track record,
17 coming in and taking drinking potable water to wash some rocks
18 to produce some copper, which is going to be shipped to China,
19 and replace that with CAP water, which is questionable at best,
20 and not guaranteeable, what would you think about that? Does
21 that make any business sense? I'm pretty sure the answer is
22 no.

23 I urge the U.S. Forest Service to deny. And urge all
24 of us to get active with the people in Washington to make sure
25 this does not happen.

1 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Tom.

2 Just a tip for our speakers, it helps if you don't get
3 too close to that microphone. If you just stand normally and
4 try to speak in a normal speaking voice then we will prevent
5 the feedback.

6 And also if you have to leave for some reason, you can
7 either turn in your speaker card, or just let somebody know
8 that you have to leave when we call your name, and that's fine.

9 And our next speaker is Gail Holman, please.

10 GAIL HOLMAN: Hi. My name is Gail Holman. My job is
11 to match people with jobs, and jobs for people. I work for
12 Resource MFG in Tucson as an account executive. We need jobs,
13 well-paying, manufacturing and mining type positions. Rosemont
14 Copper will be offering these types of positions. And we need
15 to take a look at the U.S. to stop outsourcing the mining and
16 manufacturing positions that we currently have available.

17 As a country the U.S. has outsourced the future of our
18 children and grandchildren. We need to find a way to keep
19 manufacturing and mining in this country safely and
20 environmentally conscious.

21 I have met with high schools, colleges, tech schools,
22 and the universities of Arizona, and have received an
23 enthusiastic interest in Rosemont Copper. Most recently I have
24 met with Davis-Monthan Air Force Base regarding positions for
25 our returning service men and women who want to make their home

1 in the Southwest. The mine can offer jobs and these careers
2 for our returning vets.

3 What has more impact, the mine, or the impact of our
4 returning vets when they will not be able to feed and clothe
5 their children, or be able to support them economically?

6 Thank you.

7 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Donna.

8 Ray Carroll, please. That was Gail? Oh, I apologize.
9 All right, Donna Severidt. My apologies. Thank you.

10 DONNA SEVERIDT: I'm hard to ignore. I will try not
11 to use my normal speaking voice, because I normally substitute,
12 and I talk loud. And it's nice to see adults in here instead
13 of kids. It's nice to manage 700 of them in here at a time.

14 So my name is Donna Severidt. I am from Green Valley.
15 And I'm here to express my concerns about the mine. First of
16 all, I'm concerned about water. I'm concerned about the
17 quality of water as well as quantity. We already know that the
18 quality of our water is greatly diminished in Green Valley, to
19 the point that the existing mines have had to build or dig new
20 wells for us. There's no reason to believe that that sulfate
21 plume is ever going to stop. So I'm not going to talk about
22 quantity of water. We know that we live in a desert. Quantity
23 is an issue. No matter what, it's an issue.

24 Air quality is also an issue. I don't know about the
25 rest of you, but within the last month I have had to call the

1 EPA on dust from existing mines. It's suppose to be wet on top
2 of those tailings. If it's wet how come we have dust? Guess
3 what? The new mine is suppose to be a dry tailing. It's not
4 going to be wet at all. Think about the dust, the air quality.
5 What about the impact on the plants, the animals in that
6 environment, in that ecosystem. What's going to happen to
7 those? And what's going to happen to us? Tourism is going to
8 go down. I mean we're impacting a huge area.

9 Ultimately if we lose our water we're going to have an
10 economic impact on all of us. The value of our houses will
11 greatly diminish. Our quality of life will diminish. So for
12 19 years of production what do we have to look forward to;
13 reduced quality of life, reduced water availability, reduced
14 quality of water, reduced air quality.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Donna.

17 County Supervisor Ray Carroll.

18 RAY CARROLL: Thank you very much. My mother raised
19 me to make sure that we respected your right to speak there,
20 ma'am. And I apologize that you were almost left out. But I'm
21 kind of glad I didn't have to follow the person in front of
22 you. That comment of exploiting our returning airmen, that was
23 kind of below the belt, in my opinion. Good lord. Who agrees
24 with me?

25 I'll tell you what, I'm glad to be here. But I'm kind

1 of surprised that there weren't any signs pointing to this
2 auditorium on the road. Weren't you? You know, it doesn't
3 surprise me. You know, sometimes I think that the whole
4 process has been largely controlled by Rosemont Copper Company
5 here. And, you know, it isn't us or them, it isn't us or them,
6 when I look at it.

7 You know, we're had to protest, agitate, harass the
8 U.S. Forest Service from county, state, and federal elective
9 offices to get this type of an open hearing. But we also had
10 to remind them that in Green Valley we do not hold land use
11 meetings between the months of May to October, that this thing
12 should be delayed. Because if they could get 300 people in
13 Elgin, they should be able to get 3,000 people in Green Valley
14 because of the type of thing that the lady mentioned with the
15 dust that we have experienced, with the water reduction, and
16 the groundwater experience that we have had due to the mines.

17 Now I want you to know that I have met with the Forest
18 Service representatives, and I expressed that. And I hope that
19 as they say we will impact the process, that we will have
20 meetings in October for people who are well spoken and well
21 thought to speak in Green Valley sometime soon. And October
22 would be great. Any time around those months between October
23 and May suit me just fine, and I know they suit the people fine
24 who represent Green Valley through the Community Coordinating
25 Counsel and other political offsets.

1 Jamie Sturgess and his spin doctor, Mr. Pete
2 Zimmerman, are here. I guess he's been writing the speeches
3 for a lot of these people. But I don't even think that Pete
4 would have sunk that low to write the last one about the U.S.
5 forces returning for these mine jobs. That was just
6 unbelievable.

7 I want you to know that it seems kind of passive
8 aggressive what we have experienced from Rosemont. Obviously
9 now they want you to believe that they are part of us. They
10 are still them. And they do nothing that's not meant to line
11 their pockets and their stockholders' pockets, yes, which
12 happen to be attached to Japanese and Canadian trousers, ladies
13 and gentlemen. I'm not impressed with them.

14 However, I am impressed at the statements made by the
15 Waldens, the Bees, the Gibsons, and all of the others that have
16 been here when they used to be able to see the Sahuarita
17 Mountains before the mine tailings began to grow larger than
18 them. And there's still twenty foot a year coming your way on
19 top of those mine tailings.

20 I really would like to mention all of the important
21 things that the county has done in this process, but I would
22 like to also leave you with one thing. WWJD, a lot of people
23 think, what would Jesus do? Well, we're all wondering, WWJD,
24 what will Jeanine do. God bless.

25 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Supervisor Carroll.

1 Before we get to our next speaker would Richard
2 Calabro, Mike Rantz, Ah'Nuit Nelson, and Alison Bunting please
3 come up in the speaker queue.

4 And I ask again, it would help us to keep track if
5 people wouldn't resit in the front row. Thank you so much.

6 Our next speaker is Chet Davis.

7 CHET DAVIS: Thank you very much. We have heard about
8 the air, the water quality, et cetera. I have two issues that
9 I wish to have addressed before any kind of an agreement is
10 made.

11 We are told that the major part of the process of this
12 mine that affects Forest Service land is the tailings
13 impoundment. It is the waste collection site for the mine. A
14 waste collection site is a landfill site, and if we agree to
15 have a landfill here are we opening the door for landfills
16 throughout the Forest Service property? It's something that we
17 need to address and not set a precedent for, if that is true.

18 Number two, I would like to see in all documentation
19 throughout, from here on out, that all agreements between the
20 Forest Service and Augusta Resources apply to Augusta Resources
21 only and do not inure to any other entities by reason of sale,
22 transfer, and so on. In other words, the right to mine, to
23 use, and so on does not go into the second, third, or fourth
24 party in a system, as happens so often in these businesses. So
25 that's my two comments. I thank you.

1 MS. LEWIN: Thank you very much.

2 Richard Calabro.

3 RICHARD CALABRO: Thank you. I'm Richard Calabro from
4 Green Valley. I decided three small ones is like one big one,
5 so Save the Scenic Santa Ritas. It's why we are here. I moved
6 to Green Valley six years ago. The Phelps Dodge, the Pima
7 Mine, they were already there. I knew they were ugly when I
8 realized what it was, the thud.

9 After looking at those beautiful Santa Ritas, which I
10 see from the patio for six years, that anything that ugly could
11 ever be proposed in those beautiful mountains is just
12 unthinkable. And I don't know how human beings can think these
13 things, but it sure tells you what dollars will do to your
14 brain.

15 The objectives that the Forest Service lists are, in
16 determining this decision, is the physical impacts, the
17 environmental, the biological, social, economic. There is
18 going to be a lot of very good science to tell the Forest
19 Service that any one of those considerations is inappropriate
20 for these beautiful mountains.

21 I want to -- I'm not sure that they'll get that good
22 science from the consultant that was hired, this SWCA. They
23 were awarded praise by Phelps Dodge on a project that they
24 consulted on. And they were the grantor of the award to SWCA.
25 It's on their website. It said we hire the best and they

1 delivered. And that's why Phelps Dodge convinced -- that was a
2 BLM project -- that it was environmentally okay to put that
3 mine in. So I'm not sure that the Forest Service made a valid
4 selection in that environment. They don't tell you that this
5 environmental impact study is going to be done by a consultant
6 who is being paid by Augusta. So there's really a conflict of
7 interest. And that's why people think this is a flawed process
8 and it should start over. I agree with that.

9 I would like to say something about socially
10 conscious. If Jamie Sturgess says he really wants to listen to
11 us -- I just want to show you I have been five different times
12 at the library in Green Valley getting signatures. I have 300
13 signatures. I have been there for 15 hours total. So that
14 comes out to one signature every three minutes. So this is the
15 local community opposition to this mine.

16 So if you want to be socially conscious, please, this
17 is what Jamie Sturgess has to look at. Stop understating the
18 local community opposition to your investors. I've heard you
19 do it twice. Once in a telephone survey that was totally
20 misleading, it was done in Tucson. How would you feel about
21 this mine if we did it exactly like we said we would do? It
22 misrepresented the statistics on that.

23 The second was a teleconference call that I listened
24 to to their investors. And they told their investors that
25 there's really not very much local community opposition. They

1 understated it. And they do that because investors don't want
2 to invest in something controversial like this is. They've got
3 better places for their money, and that's where it's going to
4 go if they find out. And we're going to make sure they find
5 out that we are opposed to this mine.

6 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Richard.

7 Mike Rantz, please.

8 MIKE RANTZ: Good morning. My name is Mike Rantz. I
9 have been here for five years in Green Valley. I'm the former
10 Mayor pro tem of a town in Colorado that was absolutely overrun
11 by -- I've heard every promise in the book and haven't seen one
12 kept. And I see no reason why Rosemont will keep any of their
13 promises.

14 Some of my questions to the mine pertain to who
15 monitors the water reclamation. Who monitors the runoff from
16 the mine? Do they? I read Rosemont's reclamation plan. It's
17 totally a joke. Totally inadequate. The Highway 83, come on.
18 Who is going to take care of the safety concerns and the
19 maintenance concerns with all of these additional trucks?
20 Also, how are we going to mitigate the dust, the air, and the
21 light pollution from the mine? That one is beyond me.

22 Finally, what about the native American archeology?
23 What's over there? Does anybody know? Does anybody care? I
24 beg the Forest Service to find out all of these questions, and
25 I think this mine should be denied.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, sir.

3 Before we get to our next speaker we'd like to invite
4 Jo Anne Meyer, Bruce Whitehouse, and Helen Price to come up in
5 the queue. And also if any of our speakers need water there is
6 a case of water there, you can help yourself. And our next
7 speaker is Ah'Nuit Nelson.

8 AH'NUIT NELSON: Hello, I'm Ah'Nuit Nelson. I live
9 in Tumacacori on a ranch, and I'm really concerned about the
10 water issue. One billion gallons, that's 6,000 acre feet of
11 water that they propose to take every year. Almost one billion
12 gallons. And when you think about that, you know, if somebody
13 takes 1,000 gallons or something like that, that's a lot of
14 water. But a billion gallons of water is going to go down the
15 tubes every year when they do this mine up here in the Rosemont
16 area. I think that's unconscionable.

17 I think that we need to express to the Forest Service
18 here that no action is what needs to happen, really needs to
19 happen in relationship to this mine. And there are so many
20 other issues that everyone else has expressed; the wildlife
21 situation, the beauty of the area.

22 These things, the Forest Service has been -- Theodore
23 Roosevelt really set up some real good things way back in 1909
24 and back in those times. And we need to think about what he
25 did. He was really in touch with God, and he knew that

1 conservation of the forest was exactly what we need to do. And
2 that is forest area up here that we're talking about. This is
3 a very important area. And for us to be able to just go up
4 there and dig into, and tear it up, this is not the way to go
5 about it.

6 The mines that we have here in Arizona already have
7 done just that. They have gone right in and just torn
8 everything up. And for those people who are in the mining
9 industry, I think it's time for you to start looking for
10 another job. It's time for you to quit what you're doing.
11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. LEWIN: Thank you. Alison Bunting.

13 ALISON BUNTING: Jamie Sturgess asked everybody who
14 was paid to be here to raise their hands. How about everybody
15 who supports no action raise your hands. Thank you.

16 I'm Alison Bunting, president of the Empire Ranch
17 Foundation. The historic Empire Ranch headquarters buildings
18 are located on the Los Cienegas National Conservation Area,
19 LCNA ,approximately five miles southeast of the proposed
20 Rosemont mine. The LCNCA is administered by the Bureau of Land
21 Management, and the Foundation Partners with the BLM to
22 protect, restore, and sustain the Empire Ranch historical
23 buildings and landscape as an outstanding western heritage and
24 education center.

25 The Empire Ranch house, the oldest part of which was

1 built between 1871 and 1874, is listed on the national register
2 of Historic places and is designated a Save American's
3 Treasures site. The ranch house includes twenty-two rooms and
4 sprawls over about 4,500 square feet of living space. Its
5 construction is primarily of hand-cast adobes.

6 The Foundation and the BLM recently commissioned a
7 structural seismic evaluation study of the headquarters
8 building to identify the most important preservation needs, and
9 help prioritize future projects. The structural engineer on
10 the assessment team was asked, and this was not a planned part
11 of the study, what effect continuous blasting from the proposed
12 mine might have on the adobe buildings. He responded that the
13 steady ground disturbances from blasting, similar to small
14 earthquakes, would most likely precipitate the deterioration of
15 the mortar between the adobe blocks.

16 This loss of mortar has two effects. The first is the
17 increased maintenance of the buildings through the more
18 frequent repointing of the adobe. Further, there is continuing
19 cycling, almost a rocking of the block due to the ground
20 motion. While the amplitudes are small, the continued
21 vibration will have a deleterious effect on the adobe walls.

22 Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
23 directs federal agencies to take into account the effects of
24 projects on historic properties that are listed on the national
25 register, and to consult with the state historic preservation

1 officer and the advisory counsel on historic preservation.

2 As part of the NHPA assessment the Forest Service must
3 engage qualified experts to determine the potential impact of
4 the mine's continuous blasting on the Empire Ranch buildings.
5 An agreement between these federal and state agencies must be
6 reached on how this project can be carried out without harm to
7 the Empire Ranch historic structures and incorporated into the
8 mine Plan of Operations.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Alison.

11 Would Jo Anne Meyer please come up.

12 JO ANNE MEYER: I'm Jo Anne Meyer. I have lived in
13 the Sonoita area for 27 years, and loved every minute of it.
14 But it's going to change if this mine were ever approved. I
15 have a question that begs an answer. How could one government
16 agency preside over the total destruction of nearly 4,000 acres
17 of public land at Rosemont on the west side of Scenic 83, while
18 on the east side of Highway 83 another government agency
19 presides over the conservation of some 49,000 acres of
20 beautiful grassland known as the Los Cienegas National
21 Conservation Area?

22 The noise of the heavy mining equipment, daily
23 blasting seven days a week, air pollution from windblown dust,
24 and sulfuric acid, and diesel fumes, and unlimited pumping of
25 ground water at Rosemont, and destruction of wildlife habitat

1 on the west side, is totally incompatible with the peace and
2 serenity and conservation of the east side. There will be no
3 peace for anyone in the Sonoita Valley or surrounding
4 communities, nor for wildlife if this mine is approved by the
5 Forest Service. And the Forest Service will have failed to
6 honor its motto, caring for the land and serving people.

7 Augusta Resources claims that this mine will not
8 pollute. They will use state of the art new techniques. How
9 can they be trusted when they have used deceptive tactics such
10 as providing potential mine workers with a free dinner and bus
11 transportation to the first scoping meeting? How credible was
12 their survey in which they said that 64 percent of Tucson area
13 residents would approve of this mine as long as it was built
14 and operated according to the MPO? Those who somewhat approved
15 were counted as approving. A minuscule number of those who
16 would be most affected were surveyed. Again, deception.

17 And why are salaries claimed to be on average 59,000 a
18 year at Rosemont, when the average of the new Safford mine is
19 40,000? Could executive salaries be included in the Rosemont
20 figures to make them appear to be higher?

21 ASARCO has been operating for a hundred years, and now
22 is in bankruptcy court having left a trail of toxic waste all
23 over the west. Can we expect any less from Augusta, which has
24 never operated a mine and has no track record?

25 A recent VanCouver news article stated that China is

1 looking to acquire Canadian mining companies with assets
2 outside of Canada. Would Rosemont be operated by and for the
3 Chinese government?

4 In a recent television interview Ms. Derby responded
5 to a question in reference to the hearing meetings, and she
6 stated that allowing people to speak what is on their hearts
7 helps give closure. I respectfully submit that this is a
8 flawed assumption. Closure will only come when the Rosemont
9 mining plan is rejected and the forest land is returned to the
10 people of the United States.

11 A mile wide, 3,000 foot deep open pit copper mine in
12 the beautiful Santa Rita mountains makes no sense.

13 MS. LEWIN: Thank you.

14 JO ANNE MEYER: Thank you.

15 MS. LEWIN: Would Stan Dietzman, Sandy Whitehouse, and
16 Dave Tenpenny please join the speaker queue in front.

17 After the next five speakers we're going to take
18 another short break. And Bruce Whitehouse is our next speaker.

19 BRUCE WHITEHOUSE: My name is Bruce Whitehouse, and I
20 have been a resident of Corona de Tucson for 32 years. I can
21 see the Santa Rita mountains right out my back door, and
22 Rosemont is probably 4 or 5 miles from where my fire station
23 is.

24 I have been the fire chief there for the last nine
25 years, and have been a volunteer fireman for 27 years. My big

1 concern here is the use of U.S. 83, which is a designated
2 scenic highway, as an industrial corridor for mining
3 operations. In the last 27 years I have been to some accidents
4 down on U.S. 83 that you would not want to know the grim
5 details of. And we get those quite frequently. I don't
6 believe that hazardous materials, sulfuric acid tankers,
7 explosives, and 23 ton ore trucks are compatible with school
8 buses, motorcyclists, and tourist, and the residents of U.S.
9 83.

10 The water issue is on everybody's mind too. And as
11 firefighters we need fire flow. And we would really hate to
12 see the water problem be any worse than it is now.

13 But my big concern is the safety of the drivers on
14 U.S. 83. And we are, by default, unfortunately, the first due
15 rescue squad from I-10 and U.S. 83 to milepost 43 on U.S. 83,
16 which we have a nickname for, dead man's curve. And dead man's
17 curve earned that reputation, and I don't want any more dead
18 man curves on U.S. 83. So I encourage the Forest Service to
19 consider this.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. LEWIN: Thank you.

22 Helen Price.

23 HELEN PRICE: I'm Helen Price from Academy Village in
24 the Rincon Valley, about four miles north of Vail. I was born
25 in southern Arizona between the two World Wars, and I learned

1 real early to be concerned about water. Water is more
2 important than food, or housing, or money, unless the money
3 will get you more water.

4 I am concerned at this point about the effect of the
5 mine on the Cienega Creek drainage, whether in quantity or
6 quality, because it's in the Cienega Creek drainage basin --
7 Cienega Creek runs north towards the Rincons, and it turns west
8 and changes its name to Pantano Wash.

9 Now some of the main wells of the Spanish Trail Water
10 Company, that provides my water and that of pretty much
11 everybody in Rincon Valley, the well is in the underflow of
12 Pantano Wash. If it doesn't keep getting replenished from
13 Cienega Creek, or if the replenishment is the kind of acid
14 water my mother lived with in a mining town, where you washed
15 your sheets and they turned yellow from the minerals in the
16 water, I think we have a problem.

17 I also think the Forest Service here is probably doing
18 as good a job as it can in trying to get around the directives
19 from the political appointees in Washington.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Helen.

22 Stan Dietzman, please.

23 STAN DIETZMAN: I'm really not comfortable talking in
24 front of people. The facts tend to get really out of balance
25 when you add your opinions and your feelings to them, so I'll

1 just stick to the things that I have experienced, rather than
2 the things that I think about Augusta and Rosemont.

3 I live on grazing ground that is the Helvetia Ranch.
4 I have seen four different ranch owners in the 19 years I have
5 lived there. To hold a company responsible for their actions
6 is something that is based entirely on the trust and the
7 company's ability to take care of what it does.

8 I mean you can look at a man and see how well he's
9 going to take care of you by looking at his dog, usually. And
10 if you look at the cattle, the fencing, and the way that the
11 Helvetia Ranch has been maintained since its takeover by
12 Augusta -- the 76 year old cowboy that's left in charge of his
13 side of the mountain is one of my best friends, and he's
14 totally disgusted with them. In his words exactly, they
15 haven't got animal husbandry's address.

16 If you look at the eastern side of the mountain where
17 Rosemont has their cattle running, I was over there last
18 Saturday morning, and the first stock tank on the far -- to the
19 east side of Gunsight Pass, ten or twelve cattle running
20 around, one of them belly up stinking bad enough, full of
21 vultures.

22 We've had to kill a mother lion, and her two kittens
23 I'm sure were the collateral damage of that, for coming to our
24 side of the mountain and eating their cows because there aren't
25 any deer left around there any more. In my judgement, in my

1 19 years, this is the first year they have managed to have been
2 chased out.

3 I would like to think that Rosemont and Augusta, and
4 the Asians and Canadians, and whoever the hell it is that's
5 moved into this place would keep their word, but it hasn't been
6 my experience personally that they will.

7 They plan on putting a monster water line right up my
8 front drive. I mean Road 505 Forest Road is the road that
9 they're planning on using as their alternate route. You can
10 get a good Jeep up there, I don't know how in the hell you'd
11 get any -- I've driven a low boy. I have hauled heavy
12 equipment. It would take massive work to get anything up there
13 other than a Jeep. How can that be an alternate route to State
14 83, which is a bad route to start out with.

15 It's been my experience with these people -- I have
16 been on contract for over a year now to fix a cattle guard,
17 just waiting for the cowboy to come from the other side.
18 There's two cowboys, one young rodeo guy and an old 76 year old
19 man in charge of that whole damn ranch, and the Helvetia Ranch.
20 They're both overworked beyond belief, and they can't take up
21 -- you know, if they can't stock that, how are they going to do
22 the rest of it?

23 Thanks.

24 MS. LEWIN: Thank you.

25 Sandy Whitehouse.

1 SANDY WHITEHOUSE: Hi. My name is Sandy Whitehouse.
2 I have lived in Corona de Tucson for the past 32 years. I'm
3 the matriarch of four generations of Arizonans that live in
4 that area. My husband, Chief Bruce Whitehorse, and he's fondly
5 called by the Forest Service, is the chief of the Corona de
6 Tucson Fire Department. And I am an elected member of the
7 governing board of the Corona de Tucson Fire District.

8 And I want to address the subject of something green.
9 And I'm not talking about the green sludge that will run off
10 the tainted mine pilings into our groundwater, I'm talking
11 about money. They talk about jobs. I was just driving up and
12 down Sahuarita Road and I saw ASARCO miners on strike for quite
13 some time because their wages hadn't been increased in years,
14 and they were losing their benefits. So I can't imagine that
15 Augusta is going to be kinder to their employees than ASARCO
16 folks were.

17 But the main point I have is that I have a 32 square
18 mile fire district that I have fiduciary responsibility to the
19 tax payers that live there. And we pay \$2.60, thereabouts, per
20 hundred dollars to fund our fire department, our very capable
21 fire department, provide the living for our fire fighters and
22 our medics, and the equipment, and the fire house. And we are
23 building a new fire house.

24 We have about 5,800 tax paying entities.
25 Unfortunately, lately, many of them are being assumed by banks.

1 So I don't know what that effect is going to have on our tax
2 base. And if the tax base goes down, of course the tax rate
3 will have to be raised.

4 But our medics and our fire fighters will be required
5 to respond to accidents along U.S. 83. And when we talk about
6 Mr. Sturgess, about recompense, or what they're planning on
7 doing about emergency services out there, he assured us they
8 would have first aid at the mine site. I'm not sure first aid
9 at the mine site was of utmost concern to the tax payers in my
10 fire district.

11 What we're concerned about is the money it's going to
12 cost us to fund emergency responses on U.S. 83. And I think
13 that needs to be considered by the Forest Service. I think
14 that needs to be considered by all of the other government
15 agencies, because I can assure you my government agency is
16 extremely concerned about it.

17 Thank you very much.

18 MS. LEWIN: Thank you.

19 David Tenpenny.

20 DAVE TENPENNY: Greetings. My name is Dave Tenpenny.

21 I appreciate your coming out here and supporting this anti mine
22 scenario today. Your help is most needed.

23 As a Vail resident for the last 13 years, and a Pima
24 County citizen since 1959, I have seen the negative effects of
25 the open pit copper mining west of green valley, and it's not

1 pretty. And we don't need it on the east side of the Santa
2 Ritas. I won't dwell on the ecological and the visual impacts
3 to the Santa Rita mountains, nor will I mention how the economy
4 from tourists, sightseers, et cetera, will spiral downward if
5 this proposed mine goes through.

6 My main focus is water. Specifically the Santa Cruz
7 River aquifer utilized by all of Green Valley and a big
8 proportion of the residents in the Tucson area.

9 Augusta's planned to recharge this aquifer with CAP
10 waters, and this plan is flawed. We all know we're in a
11 drought. Lake Mead is down over 100 feet. The Colorado River,
12 which serves the CAP, southern Nevada, parts of California, and
13 Arizona agricultural, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Tucson, which
14 recharges all of this drinking water. The fact is the CAP is
15 not a constant given. Recharging could stop. Future water
16 supplies would be in peril. How the Coronado national Forest
17 Service could even consider putting a population's drinking
18 water supply in jeopardy just slays me.

19 Reliability -- recharging -- in reality recharging our
20 aquifer with CAP, which is under heavy demand, so Augusta can
21 justify pulling up thousands of acre feet a year is ludicrous.

22 Will you, our professional guardians of the public
23 lands, allow them to forward their agendas while depleting our
24 limited water supplies? Your mission is to preserve these
25 precious lands, mountains, water souses for the betterment of

1 the people. To let it be destroyed and turned into an eventual
2 Superfund site is not in yours or your grandchildren's best
3 interests. Your only recourse is to say no to this action.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. LEWIN: Thank you.

6 We're going to take a 10-minute break and we will
7 return at 11:35. And when we do we would like to have the
8 following speakers in the queue. Either Elizabeth Nichols or
9 Dona LaSchiava, Bill Adamson, Morris Farr, Elton Ongley, and
10 Donald Weinstein. Thank you.

11 (A BREAK WAS TAKEN)

12
13 MS. ROZELLE: So you know, we have about -- only about
14 15 speakers left. So we should wrap this up probably in the
15 next 50, 60 minutes.

16 All right. Those of you who Sue called, it's Dona
17 LaSchiava, I don't think I'm saying that correct, come on down.
18 Bill Adamson, Morris Farr, Elton Ongley. Okay. And our Forest
19 Service people are back. Good. So, Dona.

20 DONA LASCHIAVA: Hi. My name is Dona LaSchiava, and
21 I'm a newcomer to Tucson. It took me forty years to get here.
22 My pop used to take us out to a ranch every Christmas called
23 Tanque Verde Dude Ranch, and I fell in love with this place.

24 And I'm pretty sick about what's going on right now,
25 and I just had to say something, even though I'm nervous as

1 hell. I have been in the fight since the start. My friend,
2 dear friend Lizzy is one of the well owners in Sahuarita that's
3 frantic about losing her water, and so we have been in this
4 fight together.

5 I'm a stock broker. I love good business. I'm not
6 against good business. This isn't good business. One of the
7 things I found that I wanted to call you all's attention to is
8 this is an executive order as of April 8th, 2008 this year. I
9 found this on Governor Napolitano's web site. She declared
10 April to be designated as water awareness month. And I just
11 wanted to read a couple things.

12 This is what she states in this executive order.
13 "Whereas water is one of Arizona's most vital and precious
14 resources, and whereas Arizona is an arid state, water is
15 scarce, the population growth continues to increase our demand
16 for water, and whereas Arizona has few remaining perennial
17 flowing rivers and is committed to protecting those that do
18 remain, such as the San Pedro River, the Verde River, Fossil
19 Creek, Oak Creek, the Little Colorado River, the Santa Maria
20 River, the Bill Williams River, and lastly our sweet Cienega
21 Creek. And whereas all citizens of Arizona and visitors should
22 use water more efficiently, practicing a low water use
23 life-style is the way each individual and business can help
24 insure a long-term sufficient water supply. And whereas
25 creating a culture of conservation will greatly reduce the

1 impact of drought on our natural resources, our economy, and
2 quality of life. And whereas water education is a corner stone
3 to any comprehensive water conservation program. And greater
4 awareness of water issues can be gained through community
5 education, action, and celebration".

6 Again, I'm not against mining. Not here. Not now.
7 We just don't have enough water. There's just not enough. And
8 I don't believe a big company should be able to come in here,
9 even though their water rights are exempt. All of these other
10 issues, especially those safety concerns on 83, we have got to
11 look at these things. Money is not the answer to everything.
12 Life and water are.

13 Thanks.

14 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you.

15 Bill Adamson.

16 BILL ADAMSON: Hello, I'm Bill Adamson. I've been
17 coming here since 1994. I have been a voting resident since
18 1998. My wife and I, in our adult lives, have always been
19 fortunate enough to pick where we live. And we have always
20 picked where there is great outdoor recreation, and open space,
21 and natural areas that we can enjoy. And that's why we're
22 here. This is a great area; desert, the mountains, et cetera,
23 et cetera.

24 I want to point out the tourism. The reason we're
25 here is not tourism, but there's a lot of tourism people that

1 come here for the same reasons that we live here. And the
2 tourism brings much more to the economy than does the mining
3 economy. And you're going to see tourism drop. You're going
4 to see people leave the area that think the way we do, that we
5 don't want to live in a place that's overrun with mines and has
6 no quality of life, as to why we came here.

7 The other thing that you have heard a lot about,
8 water. Well it doesn't take rocket science to know that the
9 water table has been dropping, and that means that you're going
10 to run out of water. It's going to be -- it's not a
11 sustainable use of water if the water table drops, you know.
12 What don't we understand, if the curve goes like this.

13 So I think things like the mine, things like any
14 increased use of water, when we're in a table dropping
15 situation, should be stopped until there can be proven that we
16 can have sustainable water. I don't think 100 years is enough.
17 I mean, you know, we have got future generations to think
18 about. I might even be here in a hundred years. Who knows?

19 And the other thing is the traffic that you have heard
20 a lot about. And I was really glad to hear that. And the
21 Scenic Route 83, which is a fantastic bike ride. And a lot of
22 us bikers are out there. And I tell you we don't want to mix
23 on the narrow winding road with more traffic than is already
24 there, and particularly with trucks.

25 Anyway, thank you very much.

1 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you.

2 Morris Farr.

3 MORRIS FARR: Good morning. I'm Morris Farr. I live
4 in Sonoita on the other side of the mountain, and I'm the vice
5 president of Save the Scenic Santa Ritas.

6 While many speakers here have raised issues concerning
7 the impact of the proposed mine on water, air, flora, fauna,
8 and a host of other issues, I would like to comment on the
9 procedural part of the EIS process.

10 The Forest Service has received several excellent
11 suggestions from both of our local congressional
12 representatives, Raul Grijalva and Gabby Giffords. I would
13 like to list some of these suggestions that I think are the
14 most important, and ask a simple question, what is the Forest
15 Service going to do about implementing these suggestions.

16 Number one, suspend the current scoping process until
17 a complete Mining Plan of Operations has been submitted by
18 Augusta and accepted by the Forest Service. Without that final
19 document in hand it is always a possibility that significant
20 environmental and economic effects will not be addressed.

21 Number two, I was very pleased to see this morning
22 that the Forest Service will implement the establishment of
23 working groups, including citizens and local agencies. I will
24 comment that it has been almost two months since the regional
25 forester agreed to these committees, and if there's been any

1 progress in their development the public has not been informed
2 of it.

3 Number three, establishment of a peer review process
4 to give an independent expert review of the complex technical
5 issues raised during the scoping and EIS processes. It is
6 important that the scoping and EIS processes work with plans
7 and data that have been subjected to review by truly
8 independent experts.

9 And, finally, this is a modification of my last
10 statement, it was very nice to hear this morning that the
11 Forest Service will indeed consider the no action decision as a
12 possible outcome of the EIS process.

13 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Mr. Farr.

14 Before our next speaker let me read -- invite Randy
15 Serraglio, Robert Robuck, Elizabeth Nichols, and Paul
16 Stapleton-Smith to come on down and be ready.

17 Elton Ongley.

18 ELTON ONGLEY: Hi, I'm E.K. Ongley. I'm one of the
19 people that live within a half a mile of where the wells are
20 being drilled. We have been in the area for 35 years, raised
21 our family here. Owned two businesses, been part of the
22 community. And Rosemont mine being proposed in the Santa
23 Ritas, they have no access to water where they are at in their
24 watershed on the other side. Our water on this side over here
25 is a different watershed. The two are not suppose to be

1 transferred from one to the other.

2 Rosemont, since they can't use the water on their side
3 over there, came down into or neighborhood, bought several
4 acres of land, and due to the 1875 mining laws, or whatever it
5 is, they are allowed to pump as much water as they want. There
6 are no limits. So by buying two acres of land they have
7 unlimited access to water half a mile from my well.

8 The Rosemont president spoke here a little earlier,
9 and he stated that they had just signed an agreement with the
10 Sahuarita well owners that any damage that they do when they
11 start pumping -- when they turn on their switch their wells are
12 at 2,000 feet, mine's at 280. When they turn on the switch and
13 they start pumping water, any damage that they do to my well
14 they will take care of. I have lived here for 35 years,
15 maintained my water, protected my well, and done evening that I
16 can possibly do. My well ain't broken.

17 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you.

18 RANDY SERRAGLIO: My name is Randy Serraglio, and I
19 just want to say to Marty, don't feel bad, hardly anyone gets
20 that right.

21 I have lived in Pima County for almost twenty years
22 and watched the communities of southern Arizona struggle with
23 the negative impacts of mining throughout that time. And I
24 want to congratulate everybody on the detailed and thoughtful
25 comments here this morning. I would suggest there's a reason

1 for that, because people in southern Arizona are very familiar
2 with the impacts of mining. And we know too well how negative
3 it can be.

4 The problem with this process is that it's not ready
5 to start yet. I represent the Center for Biological Diversity,
6 and my organization is very familiar with the NEPA process and
7 Environmental Impact Statements, usually through the courts.
8 And this one in particular is just fatally flawed.

9 A lot of the information that this study is suppose to
10 produce is not going to be available for years. The hydrologic
11 impacts, some of the other impacts, it's going to take years of
12 study to figure out what this is really going to do to the
13 wells of the people who live here, the aquifer, et cetera. And
14 never mind all the other issues.

15 So this process needs to be stopped. I would suggest
16 to Forest Supervisor Derby that we need to stop this process,
17 wait for the information to come, wait for a final Plan of
18 Operations from Augusta that is not a moving target, not
19 invisible, not changing every few weeks when they come up with
20 a brand new idea that they float in the media, and start it
21 over when we have some real information in front of us that we
22 can use to hold this company accountable.

23 Secondly, I would say that a lot of folks aren't aware
24 of some of the history of this. You know, every time there's a
25 peak in the copper price we're asked to sacrifice our natural

1 heritage for short-term profit. There's inevitably a valley
2 for every peak, and then we're asked to give up our jobs and
3 deal with the big pile of poisonous waste that's left behind
4 when the companies pack up and leave town.

5 That history is inescapable, and I think it's been
6 repeated over and over enough that we're probably staring it in
7 the face again. We have another peak in the copper price, and
8 now we're looking at another company that wants to come in and
9 kill our golden goose, take the golden eggs to Canada, and sell
10 them the China. That's not something that people in southern
11 Arizona are going to put up with.

12 We didn't put up with it ten years ago when ASARCO
13 tried this. A lot of people don't know that the design on this
14 T-shirt was crafted twelve years ago for this same situation
15 when somebody came with -- you know, ASARCO came with another
16 bad idea to ruin the Santa Rita mountains with an open pit
17 copper mine.

18 And if Jamie Sturgess really is listening, although I
19 don't see him out there right now anywhere, the people of
20 southern Arizona spoke with a very loud and clear voice ten
21 years ago, so maybe he should check the historical record. And
22 I guarantee you we're going to speak loudly and clearly again.
23 We don't want this scam mine operation, and we don't want this
24 sham process, we want to be treated fairly and with respect,
25 and we want to be heard. And we will.

1 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Mr. Serraglio.

2 Robert Robuck.

3 ROBERT ROBUCK: Hello. My name is Robert G. Robuck.

4 I'm one of the Sahuarita well owners that did not sign. Out of
5 280 of us he stated that 50 of us signed. We were told we
6 would not be allowed to sign the agreement until the
7 hydrological impact study of Sahuarita, to determine the water
8 that they're going to transport 15 miles up to their mine, was
9 completed.

10 So how, Jamie Sturgess, if you're here, how can we
11 sign an agreement that has not been completed yet? We want to
12 know why the hydrological impact study that you promised has
13 not been done. And we hope that the forestry will also review
14 this information. We also would like an independent
15 hydrological impact team to view this study to see how accurate
16 it really is.

17 We, the citizens of Sahuarita, have become an
18 extension of the Rosemont mine. We live 15 miles, as the crow
19 flies, away from the mine site, but yet they're going to be
20 draining our water resources of our wells of 400 families that
21 are going to be affected. Our wells are 200 to 300 feet deep.
22 They have put in wells 1,300 feet deep.

23 They plan on pumping 6,000 acre feet of water, which
24 they have got a permit from the ADWR, for the next twenty
25 years. And that is 1,955,226,000 gallons of water a year. Why

1 has this been approved? This is a ridiculous process, and it
2 should be shameful that the forestry is going to allow the land
3 that belongs to the public to become a dirt dump, a dirt dump
4 for somebody else's profits, while ignoring the total impact
5 that Rosemont's going to have on the citizens of Sahuarita and
6 Green Valley. This is ridiculous that they're being allowed to
7 turn Sahuarita into a mine.

8 Not only are they going to be mining our water,
9 they're also going to be using a secondary access road of Santa
10 Rita Road, which my sons get on a bus every morning to go to
11 school. They're going to be impacting the future growth of
12 Sahuarita, our infrastructure, our water. And not only
13 mentioning, as Nancy Freeman had mentioned earlier, the
14 subsidence that already occurs in our area is 10 miles long and
15 4 miles wide. The subsidence last year was recorded, during an
16 8 month period, of two and a half inches.

17 How can this be allowed, to give them more water to
18 pump out of the middle of a subsidence area? This needs to be
19 taken in your consideration of no action. I believe you need
20 no action.

21 I also will make a quick comment. Rosemont should be
22 made to pay for an independent hydrological impact study for
23 the environmental impact of transporting groundwater away from
24 Sahuarita Heights, and how this will affect the land
25 subsidence, the infrastructure, our community, and how this

1 will affect my personal well, 55-602901, the registration
2 number from the ADWR.

3 Thank you for this time to speak.

4 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you.

5 Elizabeth Nichols.

6 ELIZABETH NICHOLS: Wow, how can I follow that? My
7 name is Elizabeth Nichols, and I thought it was interesting,
8 you notice we all got water today. I'll put it right up there
9 where we can all view it.

10 I'm also a well owner. I have lived in Arizona for
11 52 years when there was hardly anybody here, 50,000, I think.
12 And I have seen this water dwindle down, dwindle down. And I
13 wanted to read about the water wars with the U.S. in our
14 future.

15 And these experts, Toronto, Canada says parts -- "U.S.
16 states could start water wars in the years ahead, and fight for
17 access to Great Lakes resources as they become more desperate
18 to meet growing needs, Canadian and American experts said
19 yesterday at a water conference.

20 Southwestern U.S. states are already concerned about
21 dwindling water resources, and the impacts of climate change
22 are exacerbating their problems and environment, Canada's Linda
23 said who worked on -- sorry about that -- United Nations
24 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports.

25 Water issues that are currently emerging will develop

1 into bitter conflicts in the not too distant future when those
2 dry states become increasingly desperate. We will, in fact,
3 get into major water wars, Clark said. You will see water wars
4 coming in every way, shape, or form.

5 In the U.S. there are some leading politicians who
6 have said the Great Lakes do, in fact, belong to everyone, and
7 all water should be nationalized. And this certainly is a
8 concern.

9 Earlier this month Ohio Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher
10 made headlines when he told an economic development summit the
11 Great Lakes regions may be less than a decade away from selling
12 water to other U.S. states in need. I think it's fair to say
13 that we're going to see, in the next decade, states and other
14 countries looking for ways to get access to our fresh water
15 supply, and we're going to have to make some tough decisions
16 about whether we want that to happen, and if so how".

17 You know, we need to change this 1872 mining law. It
18 was made when we were mining with a pick and shovel. Now we
19 have big land movers. These mines are exempt from the amount
20 of water. They can drain us dry.

21 Everyone else has to conserve. I have been conserving
22 all my life. Grew up, oh, turn the water off when you brush
23 your teeth. But, folks, this is what we have got to preserve.
24 Everything else is important.

25 I'm a health professional, and I cringe when I think

1 about the mercury, and the lead, and the arsenic and everything
2 else that is going into the water. I have seen where they put
3 TCE in the soil and all the people that have cancer and are
4 dying. Families that live in certain areas in Tucson are
5 dying.

6 So, folks, we need to change this 1872 mining law and
7 we need to get with it. Everything else is important, but we
8 need to tell our Congress people, our politicians, and our
9 governor, because she says we're in a drought. And they have
10 known it for twenty years.

11 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you.

12 ELIZABETH NICHOLS: So let's call her on it.

13 MS. ROZELLE: I invite Charlotte Herdliska, Kathy
14 Cooper, Annie McGreevy to come on down.

15 And Paul Stapleton-Smith, you're up next.

16 PAUL STAPLETON-SMITH: Hi. My name is Paul
17 Stapleton-Smith, and I'm a resident of Sahuarita. And I want
18 to applaud the Forest Service for this enormous effort of
19 holding these hearings and attempting to include the citizens,
20 because I know it has to be an arduous task for you. They're
21 showing great endurance, your staff up there.

22 And with that I would like to simply corroborate what
23 some of the previous speakers have said regarding this
24 community work group. It's a terrific effort, and I urge that
25 we adopt that group -- that we form that group as soon as

1 possible. And, further, that the proposed date for the
2 completion of the Environmental Impact Statement, which is
3 March of 2009, as I understand it, that that be extended until
4 all of the hydrologic, hydro geologic, biological, ecological,
5 and climatological studies have been completed and made
6 available to the public and sufficiently analyzed. Not a slam
7 dunk, but give that the appropriate amount of time. And I know
8 that that's within your discretion.

9 For example, the company, in the case of the hydro
10 geologic studies for the impact to the groundwater, which was
11 referred to by this Well Water User's Group previously.
12 According to the company, that's not going to be completed for
13 another 18 to 24 months; is that correct? I mean I believe it
14 is. And certainly that study has to be included in the
15 Environmental Impact Statement.

16 And I think we have an issue here fundamentally where
17 the information is not going to be made available in a timely
18 fashion for a reasonable analysis on the part of your office.
19 So I encourage you to extend that deadline, please.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you.

22 Charlotte.

23 CHARLOTTE HERDILISKA: Excuse my hyperventilation. I
24 would like to encourage the Forest Service, and I'm sure they
25 are, to consider the really big picture when we're talking

1 about this. We're really talking about a few jobs for a few
2 years. At what price? History has proven the very long
3 lasting effects, devastating effects from tailings, leaching,
4 contaminations into our groundwater long after the mining is
5 gone. The heavy traffic up and down Highway 83, a scenic
6 highway already in poor condition. Can Pima County or the tax
7 payers really afford the cost to improve and maintain this
8 highway?

9 I encourage you to please say no to the groundwater
10 contamination, the air pollution, the destruction of scenic
11 Highway 83, and yes to water conservation.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you.

14 Kathy Cooper.

15 KATHY COOPER: Hi. My name is Kathy Cooper. I live
16 in Avra Valley. And I track the Red Fork of Davidson Canyon
17 and record wildlife data. But that is not my issue today.

18 He who forgets the past is lost. That's an ancient
19 Egyptian proverb coined, I assume, by an ancient Egyptian.
20 It's a lesson that 5,000 years later we probably have not
21 learned.

22 I want to address the past legacy for a minute, and
23 then the legacy we leave for the future. Picher, Oklahoma, a
24 town that was leveled by the tornados in the last month.
25 Unlike other towns leveled by the tornados will not be rebuilt

1 because the ground is so contaminated from the runoff from
2 tailings that loom behind the town that the federal government,
3 with your money and my money, has been depopulating that town
4 for several years, and will continue to depopulate that town
5 with your money and my money. That's the legacy that mine left
6 to you and me, not just to Picher, Oklahoma.

7 I had reason recently to go to Arivaca and see the
8 Arivaca Lake, which I have learned is now considered to be only
9 a catch and throw back lake because the fish are so
10 contaminated that they can't be eaten. You and I know that
11 Pina Blanca Lake, from the news, is being drained and dredged.
12 And who's paying for that? You and I.

13 I asked why these chemicals came to be in these water
14 ways, and I learned that they are from old mines. They're
15 from up in the watershed, and continue to be leached into the
16 lakes, making them uninhabitable and unusable until we spend a
17 lot of money to fix it.

18 So I would ask you to consider the legacy left to us
19 long after the miners are gone, long after the profits have
20 been spent. What kind of legacy do we intend to leave for the
21 next generation, or the generation after that with the
22 decisions that we make today?

23 I would ask the Forest Service if there has been an
24 exhaustive geochemical study on the long range effects of the
25 tailings in this mine. And I would ask is there a business

1 plan to mitigate those effects. Can someone answer me.

2 MS. ROZELLE: I think at this time we're not going to
3 be answering questions, but certainly put that in your comments
4 and it will be answered in the draft document, if not before.

5 KATHY COOPER: Thank you so much.

6 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you.

7 All right. I'm going to invite the final three cards
8 I have to come on up front. Shari Stapleton-Smith, Sarah
9 Barchas, and Frank Peebles.

10 And Annie McGreevy, please go ahead.

11 ANNIE MCGREEVY: Currently we have been told that the
12 scoping period ends July 14th. I want to read you a letter I
13 got from the Forest Service yesterday, in case when you're
14 taking a shower, or driving to town you think of something you
15 haven't said by July 14th.

16 "It is important for you to know that an official end
17 date for any scoping period does not preclude you, your
18 organization, or other members of the public from submitting
19 comments to the Forest Service beyond that date of July 14th.
20 Be assured that all public comments concerning the Rosemont
21 Copper Project NEPA review will be reviewed and addressed by
22 Forest Region 3 and Contractor Resource Specialists through the
23 date of release of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement
24 scheduled to be done March '09". But I think it will be much
25 later. I said that.

1 "Therefore, even though the official scoping period
2 end date is July 14th, you may submit comments for our
3 consideration up until the Draft EIS is released".

4 I just wanted you all to know that.

5 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you.

6 Shari Stapleton-Smith.

7 SHARI STAPLETON-SMITH: My name is Shari
8 Stapleton-Smith, and I live in Sahuarita. And I'm incredibly
9 nervous. Along with the concerns already mentioned, my concern
10 stems with my personal experience when I went to the open house
11 in Vail. I didn't know much about what was going on. I had
12 been hearing, so I went to learn.

13 And I asked a lot of questions of the representatives
14 of the mine. And I sincerely wanted to know, you know, what
15 this project meant from their perspective. I wanted to gather
16 information so I could make an informed decision about where I
17 stand.

18 The answers to my questions were vague in almost all
19 cases, and contradictory in others. It was a pretty poor sales
20 job, in my opinion. When I asked specifically about the
21 reclamation of the tailings, considering the lack of success
22 with existing mines in that area, when I asked them how they
23 can guarantee that they were going to have success, because
24 that's what they were saying, I was told that they're currently
25 experimenting on how to replant and reclaim in conjunction with

1 the University of Arizona, and that if those experiments
2 weren't successful then they would have to think of something
3 else. It's pretty promising, isn't it?

4 So my concern is if Rosemont couldn't be bothered to
5 send people who knew what they were talking about to answer our
6 questions, what does that really say about their concern for
7 what we think?

8 Mr. Sturgess said that no one in the country is
9 listening as closely as they are to our opinions -- are you
10 listening Mr. Sturgess, are you here? My question is how can
11 we trust this organization if they don't respect us enough to
12 be prepared to come and answer our questions to an open house,
13 that is supposedly an open house so we can make decisions?

14 Thank you.

15 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you.

16 Sarah.

17 SARAH BARCHAS: My name is Sarah Barchas. My family
18 and I have been involved in ranching for 50 years in southern
19 Arizona, and for 40, for over 40 years at High Haven Ranch. We
20 are long-term residents, and we have a ranch that is directly
21 adjacent, in our Forest Service leases, to the leases that are
22 now leased by Rosemont. We have always had a mutually
23 respecting and cooperative relationship with the Forest
24 Service, and continue to do so, and will always continue to do
25 so. And we appreciate from the Forest Service your extending

1 these hearings and this scope process.

2 We were very much drawn to this area by the way of
3 life, cherishing the natural beauty of the land, the habitat
4 with its marvelous biodiversity, and a remarkable clarity of
5 the night skies. All of us in our family have major concerns
6 about the proposed Rosemont Copper Project. Concerns about
7 water, which is the most important natural resource in Arizona,
8 on wells, on watershed, on surface water, on groundwater, in
9 volume and in contamination, impurity, and depletion. And the
10 beauty of the pristine area.

11 Our concern is that it could be irreparably and
12 permanently scarred and ravaged and could never be fully
13 restored.

14 The safety factors for Highway 83, so many of you have
15 spoken to that. And the last time I drove from the ranch into
16 Tucson going on Highway 83 I had to pull over four times for
17 gigantic oversized trucks carrying enormous earth moving
18 equipment. And air and noise pollution affected by the
19 excavations, the tailings dust, and dust from the explosives,
20 and the impact on the night skies and on health.

21 I ask that the Forest Service in its process be guided
22 by two key factors. There are three medical people in my
23 family, and the most basic tenant in medicine is first do no
24 harm. That must be the tenant for the human body, and it must
25 be the tenant for the body of land and responsibility for that

1 land that could be impacted in its most wide reaches by the
2 Forest Service on this particular area of land and extending
3 much beyond that.

4 And second, I asked that the stewardship -- the second
5 most important tenant is that the stewardship of land, that is
6 such a guiding principle for the Forest Service, for other
7 people, be their guiding principle, and that they can apply
8 this by being the best possible example to the public in having
9 no action, which is the only way to have no impact.

10 I just want to say that there are gradations of
11 impact.

12 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, ma'am.

13 SARAH BARCHAS: Okay.

14 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you.

15 SARAH BARCHAS: And the only way to have no impact is
16 no action.

17 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you.

18 Frank Peebles.

19 FRANK PEEBLES: My name is Frank Peebles. I've been a
20 resident 19 years now in Arizona. I have lived the last seven
21 years on 83, about five miles from the proposed mine. And
22 something that I have never heard in any of these discussions
23 yet is that Davidson Canyon and Davidson Creek feeds into the
24 Cienega Nature Preserve just north of I-10. The head waters of
25 Davidson Creek start right in front of the proposed tailing

1 piles for this mine. The mine will be an open pit, and it's
2 going to absorb water every time it rains. We get tremendous
3 rainfall through that area in the summer because the area
4 between the two mountain ranges, the Santa Ritas and the
5 Empires, channels storms up through there all the time.

6 So that means that anything that leaches down through
7 the mine's pit is going to end up in the watershed on that side
8 of the mountain. It's going to go in the Davidson Wash.
9 Davidson Wash goes to Cienega Creek. Cienega Creek feeds
10 Pantano at Vail. And it eventually goes through Tucson, right
11 through the middle of Tucson, hits the Rillito River, and ends
12 up in Marana.

13 So I think that it would behove us to try to get
14 people in Tucson more interested in this, since they are going
15 to be the recipient of anything bad that comes out of that mine
16 in the water.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you.

19 All right. Well, this concludes today's hearing on
20 the proposed Rosemont Mine. Thank you so much for your time,
21 your comments, your willingness to stay here until the end.

22 And we will make the recording of today's hearing
23 available to the public. You can check the project website
24 periodically for the availability of the various items. And
25 the website address is in your handout.

1 And also just recall that there is another, the final
2 public hearing scheduled for June 30th at the Rincon High
3 School in Tucson. And, again, it will be on the website with
4 more specifics. But it will be in the evening.

5 And thank you so much. Travel safely.

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7 (The proceedings concluded at 12:20 o'clock p.m.)
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