

US Forest Service Proposed Rosemont Copper Project Scoping
Meeting

US Forest Service Proposed Rosemont Copper Project Scoping
Hearing

6/30/2008

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

RINCON HIGH SCHOOL
422 N. ARCADIA BOULEVARD
TUCSON, ARIZONA
JUNE 30, 2008
6:00 p.m.

Reported by: Cindy J. Shearman, RMR, CRR
CR #50718

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1 (The following proceedings were made of
2 record:)

3 MS. ROZELLE: Welcome, everyone.
4 Hello. Good evening. Please come on in and take
5 your seats so we can begin. Welcome, everyone. We
6 appreciate your participating in tonight's public
7 hearing for the proposed Rosemont Copper Mine. My
8 name's Marty Rozelle and I will be serving as one
9 of the moderators tonight. I am an independent
10 consultant and I live in Maricopa County, and so
11 I'm what's called an objective third party retained
12 for -- by the Forest Service and not directly
13 working on this project.

14 The fire exit's back there and also to the
15 sides. There's rest rooms in the lobby; men's is
16 over here and women's is over here.

17 So the U.S. Forest Service is very
18 interested in hearing from you today, in recording
19 your comments for consideration in developing the
20 draft environmental impact statement. We will
21 begin the meeting with introductions and some brief
22 presentations by Forest Service representatives.
23 But the remainder of the meeting will be devoted to
24 listening to and recording your comments.

25 And if you wish to speak, and have not

1 already done so, you need to complete a speaker
2 card. And these are available at the sign-in
3 tables in the lobby. If you're sitting at your
4 seat and you have one, just hold it up and someone
5 from the Forest Service or the consultant's staff
6 will come by and get it.

7 Now, the Forest Service held a similar
8 hearing in Elgin on May the 12th and another one at
9 Sahuarita High School on Saturday, June the 7th,
10 and this is the third one in this particular series
11 in public meetings. We have with us today the
12 following people from U.S. Forest Service, and they
13 are going to be here listening, aside from the
14 brief presentation, and they're sitting down here
15 in the third row. We have Jeanine Derby,
16 and Jeanine is the forest supervisor for the
17 Coronado National Forest; she just stood up. And
18 next to her is Bev Everson, she's the forest
19 geologist. And on the stage with me I have Reta
20 Laford, and Reta's the deputy forest supervisor.
21 And Teresa Ann Ciapusci, and Teresa Ann is the
22 ecosystem management planner. Janet Jones is going
23 to be our timekeeper. And those of you who are
24 speaking, she's sitting right in front of the
25 podium and, after we hear the presentations, I'll

1 just kind of run through what the ground rules are
2 for tonight. And also with us are members of the
3 Forest Services environmental consulting team.

4 Any elected officials who are in the
5 audience are most welcome to come down and join the
6 Forest Service here in the front. And I do
7 understand that we have Congresswoman Giffords with
8 us tonight. Here she is. Thank you for coming.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. ROZELLE: And I've also been told
11 that she's on a pretty tight schedule and will stay
12 with us as long as she can, but we're glad to have
13 you here.

14 So, now, Teresa Ann Ciapusci will provide
15 an overview of the National Environmental Privacy
16 Process that is mandated to use. She'll be
17 followed by Reta, who will provide a brief overview
18 of the proposed project. So, Teresa Ann.

19 MS. CIAPUSCI: Sorry for the noise.
20 Well, good evening, and thank you for coming. We
21 appreciate you taking your time out of your
22 schedule to be here and to tell us your views.

23 The National Environmental Policy Act is
24 what guides our development of this environmental
25 study. It has three primary purposes set in place

1 by Congress in the 1960s, early '70s. It declares
2 a national policy of environmental responsibility,
3 it provides procedural requirements for federal
4 decision-making, and it created the president's
5 council on environmental quality.

6 NEPA, as the law is typically called, has
7 several objectives. It provides supplemental and
8 legal authorities for federal decision-making, it
9 provided the procedural reform for how decisions
10 were made prior to when this Act was put in place,
11 it requires that we disclose environmental
12 information, it helps provide resolution to
13 environmental problems. Its intent is to foster
14 intergovernmental coordination and cooperation, and
15 its intent is also to enhance public participation
16 in federal decision-making processes.

17 Part of why we are using this process,
18 other than the fact that it is law, is that it
19 helps us to create an informed decision. It means
20 that we put all the facts in front of the
21 decisionmaker so that they can make a decision
22 based on fact and based on knowledge. So we want
23 the decisionmaker to know about the physical and
24 biological environments, the social environments,
25 and the economic environment related to this

1 decision.

2 In addition, we want to inform the public
3 of these same facts so that you can have a valid
4 and participatory relationship with the
5 documentation and the study and you can provide
6 your views and fill in data gaps that we might have
7 from our own analysis.

8 The Rosemont Company has proposed a copper
9 mine, and they've submitted a mine Plan of
10 Operations, which is what initiated this study.
11 Their initial submission was not fully complete and
12 the forest supervisor did request additional
13 information. When that information was received,
14 it was deemed sufficient to initiate the
15 environmental study process.

16 And that mine Plan of Operations will be
17 fully completed upon the completion of the
18 environmental study because parts of the
19 environmental study get incorporated into that
20 document to fully complete it.

21 In our study, the Forest Service will
22 consider a no-action alternative. It will look at
23 alternative strategies that meet the purpose and
24 need for this particular proposal, and it will look
25 at mitigation to reduce the environmental harm.

1 At this point, we are going through a
2 process that is set in place by NEPA. NEPA has
3 very set milestones that we must meet through a
4 process, but it is a very flexible planning process
5 and it allows the federal agency, in this case the
6 Forest Service, to determine how we do that.

7 We are at the step currently called the
8 scoping process. This is the point where we look
9 for everybody's views on what is important to them
10 about this proposal. We use this to look at the
11 scientific and technical aspects of the proposal.
12 We want to know who the interested parties are that
13 need to be involved in analyzing this particular
14 proposal, and we are looking for what data and
15 analysis needs we have and what data and analysis
16 gaps exist and how we will fill them.

17 We wanted to do this through a
18 collaborative process. Scoping is collaborative.
19 And we are looking for determining in the very near
20 future who we will ask to be cooperating agencies
21 from other state, local, tribal, and federal
22 entities. We are also looking at using some
23 working groups made up of -- with citizen
24 participation to do some aspects of our analysis
25 and some aspects of our process. There will be

1 more information coming out on those two processes
2 in the near future.

3 When we finish the scoping process, which
4 is currently scheduled to formally end on
5 July 14th, we will take the information that we
6 develop during that time and we will create a
7 document called a draft Environmental Impact
8 Statement. This is a document which provides the
9 results and conclusions of what we've learned. It
10 informs you, the public, of what we've learned as
11 well as the decisionmaker, and it provides a forum
12 for constructive comment to tell us if we've missed
13 anything, if there's things that could be done
14 differently, or if new ideas have come forth.

15 After that, we will take those comments and
16 create what's called the final Environmental Impact
17 Statement, another document which provides a
18 refined analysis and conclusions and which is the
19 basis for the decision that the decisionmaker will
20 make.

21 That decision is then recorded in a third
22 document called a Record of Decision, and that
23 document includes administrative appeal rights and
24 it is what completes the mine Plan of Operations.
25 The aspects of that Record of Decision will be

1 incorporated into that mining Plan of Operations to
2 complete that document.

3 This is followed by another process, the
4 administrative appeal process, which is guided by
5 other law regulations and policy and is a separate
6 analysis of a review internally through a higher
7 level of the Forest Service to determine whether
8 our decision was appropriate or not. And it has
9 its own process requirements. We can provide
10 information on that at a later date if needed.

11 And, at this point, I'm going to turn it
12 over to Reta and she'd going to describe the
13 proposal in more detail for you.

14 MS. LAFORD: Hi, I'm deputy forest
15 supervisor, Reta Laford. I'm pleased to see some
16 familiar faces. I think we're starting to get to
17 know each other and learn about the issues related
18 to this project. Very pleased. I'm also very
19 pleased to see some new faces. I encourage both
20 familiar faces and new faces to provide comments
21 tonight.

22 I hope you had a chance to review some of
23 the information we've previously shared. And, if
24 not, we do have information packets, CDs, DVDs
25 available at the sign-in area, as well as

1 information on our website.

2 So I'd like to take a moment and briefly
3 describe the proposed action. The proposed action
4 is to construct an open pit copper mine in the
5 Santa Rita Mountains approximately 30 miles south
6 of Tucson. It is an estimated annual production of
7 230 million pounds of copper, 5 million pounds of
8 molybdenum, and 3.5 million ounces of silver over a
9 19-year production span.

10 The project would consist of approximately
11 4,400 acres, a thousand of which would be on
12 private land, 3,300 on Forest Service administered
13 land, 75 acres on Arizona State administered land,
14 and 15 acres on land administered by the BLM. Most
15 of the pit area would be on private land, in that
16 general area there, and most of the facility
17 infrastructure, tailings and waste rock would be on
18 lands administered by the Forest Service.

19 Primary access would be via State Highway
20 83 between milepost 46 and 47, a four-mile access
21 route into the pit area. A secondary access is
22 being considered to the north in the area of
23 Gunsite Pass.

24 The main electrical power supply would
25 enter the property from the west and the east and

1 passive solar technology would also be used to
2 generate on-site electricity. Water, mine
3 processing water would be pumped from lands owned
4 by the Rosemont Copper Company within the upper
5 Santa Cruz subbasin near Sahuarita. It is
6 estimated that the mine and support facilities
7 would need 5,000 acre-feet of water annually.

8 There are two types of ore present, sulfide
9 and oxide. They require different processing
10 techniques. The sulfide ore is processed by
11 crushing and grinding and concentrating it with
12 reagents. The waste articles from this processing
13 would be deposited in the tailings storage area.
14 The oxide ore would be processed using heap
15 leaching and solvent extraction electrowinning.
16 This is done by placing the oxide ore on a lined
17 leach pad and irrigating it with an acidic
18 solution. The solution is then collected and sent
19 to an on-site plant where it is plated into
20 high-quality copper sheets. Both the solid
21 concentrates and the high-quality copper sheets
22 would be transported off site by truck.

23 The waste rock and tailings, waste rock
24 storage tailing placement leach pad, and milling
25 would primarily be on lands administered by the

1 Forest Service located east of the pit area. The
2 intention is that these would screen other mining
3 activities from Highway 83.

4 Reclamation such as waste rock and tailing
5 contouring and revegetation would occur concurrent
6 with mining and processing activities. As
7 operation progresses, leach fields would be closed
8 and buried within the waste rock storage areas.
9 The site would be graded and recontoured. Most
10 building and operating facilities would be removed
11 and reclamation would be ensured through a bonding
12 process.

13 So that is a quick overview of the proposed
14 action. I'd like to leave time for the public
15 comments, but do encourage you to take information
16 from the meeting, both the information packets,
17 CDs, DVDs, and the website to further refine
18 comments through the comment period.

19 And -- oh, I've got a closing one here.
20 This is your opportunity to tell us what we need to
21 know to do a good job and thoroughly analyze this
22 proposal. Please take advantage of it. And your
23 comments will be considered in this process.

24 And I'll leave this up also. We have, in
25 addition to the hearings we've conducted, we've

1 added a comment phone line to allow people to phone
2 in their comments. We've heard some people
3 couldn't make it to the meetings and I hope this
4 helps. Those comments will be treated as equally
5 as any other comments we receive, regardless of the
6 form they're received. Other ways we may receive
7 comments are e-mail, fax, and postal mail. Again,
8 I encourage you to participate and comment. Thank
9 you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. ROZELLE: Good. Thank you. As I
12 mentioned earlier, my name is Marty Rozelle and I
13 am the official moderator for the public hearing
14 tonight. Sue Lewin, sitting in front, she and I
15 will trade off as we -- 'cause we're going to be
16 taking a few breaks throughout the evening.

17 So I hope that everyone wishing to speak
18 before the audience has submitted a speaker card.
19 You can do so up until 8:30 tonight, so if you
20 haven't -- haven't decided yet if you're going to
21 speak and something is said that causes you to
22 decide later, you can do that, as long as you fill
23 out a card. And, again, if you don't have one,
24 they're in the lobby.

25 So I have the cards now that have been

1 received. Right now I've got about 45 cards and
2 they're in pretty much the order that people signed
3 in. And out in the lobby we've put the order on
4 flip charts because you may wonder kind of where
5 you are in the queue, so that would be something
6 that you could check at the break.

7 Each person who fills in a card will have
8 one opportunity to speak for three minutes. It's
9 necessary for us to limit the time to three minutes
10 to allow the opportunity for as many people to
11 speak as possible within the time that we have here
12 tonight.

13 We have a court stenographer, Cindy, who's
14 sitting down here in the front with us today. And
15 she will record all the comments and the questions
16 which will be considered in preparation of the
17 environmental document.

18 Our first Forest Service representatives
19 will not be answering questions during tonight's
20 meeting, as they -- as it would make the meeting a
21 lot longer. But more importantly is this is the
22 scoping stage and so there's not a lot of answers
23 to all the questions at this point.

24 The -- as Reta said, or Teresa Ann said
25 too, all comments received will be considered in

1 preparation of the draft Environmental Impact
2 Statement, which would be available for viewing and
3 comment upon completion.

4 And so, if the same question is asked by a
5 number of different people, even in slightly
6 different ways, it will be published and answered
7 once in that environmental document. Just a point
8 of clarification, that question had come up before.

9 So we will continue with our comments
10 tonight until everyone has had a chance to speak,
11 so that means that if you've got your comment card
12 in by 8:30 and I still have 20, 30 cards to go,
13 we'll continue to go until we are done. And at
14 that time, we'll end the hearing.

15 So you'll have three minutes to speak.
16 You're not going to be permitted to give part of
17 your time to another speaker so that they would
18 have more than three minutes to speak. We are
19 going to take a ten-minute break every 50 or 60
20 minutes, and I'll be letting you know. There is
21 some water out in the hallway for you if you want
22 it.

23 Now, keeping track of time is Janet's job
24 down here, and she's sitting right in front of the
25 speaker podium and so she will start the timer when

1 the speaker begins speaking and hold up a card when
2 one minute is remaining and then another card when
3 there is 30 seconds remaining. So I know that
4 you'll be courteous and observe the three-minute
5 speaker limit. And also, in sitting quietly while
6 the speakers are talking so as not to distract the
7 stenographer or the speaker.

8 So the way we're going to do it is I'm
9 going to call four names and we'll start like a
10 queue down here in the first row, first or second
11 row, and then you'll be on deck ready to go once
12 your name is called. Just before the last person
13 gets up, I'll call three or four more and you can
14 come down and wait so that we can really -- we'll
15 keep it moving.

16 And I want to caution you, the microphone
17 at the speaker podium down here in the front is --
18 has got a stand on it and so it's on the left-hand
19 side. We've got some caution tape over there. And
20 Sue's going to stand over there, but it would be
21 better if you just went back and forth on this
22 side; we've got a lot of wires down here.

23 Okay. And then when there's about ten
24 minutes left before the break, I'll announce that
25 it's coming up when the remaining three or four

1 people finish and then, before we break, I'll let
2 you know who's on deck for right after the break
3 and that's how we'll do it. And then once you've
4 spoken, if you'd just go ahead and return to your
5 seat, leaving this area open. So, I think that's
6 it. That's probably enough. So, thank you in
7 advance for being courteous listeners and we'll now
8 begin the hearing.

9 So if the next four people would just come
10 on down front, starting with Terry O'Rourke, Cheryl
11 Rennie, Bonnie Isenberg, and Franny Walker. And
12 the first one up is Terry O'Rourke.

13 MR. O'ROURKE: Hi, my name is Terry
14 O'Rourke. I live in Vail. First of all, I'd like
15 to thank Gabrielle Giffords for being here tonight,
16 and for her support. I'd also like to thank Ray
17 Carroll, if he's in the house, if not, for his --
18 for his standing up for us in our opposition to
19 this mine. So let's get to it.

20 Let's see if I have this plan correct. We
21 plan to dig a big hole in the ground, not unlike
22 the ones left in Bisbee. We plan on doing this in
23 a pristine national forest -- can everybody hear
24 me? Can anybody hear me?

25 Okay. Let me just get back to what I was

1 saying. We plan on digging in this pristine
2 national forest setting. We plan on leaving debris
3 -- we call it tailings now. We plan on leaving
4 debris in piles for some other generation to clean
5 up. We plan on blasting and digging day and night,
6 causing noise pollution, light pollution, air
7 pollution, water pollution, creating environmental
8 chaos throughout the region that have unknown
9 health consequences.

10 And we think this is a good idea because?
11 The price of copper went up. And somebody will
12 make a lot of money. I'm from New York, and when
13 people try this in a place like New York, we call
14 them hoods. We gather all the good guys together,
15 we drive them out with this statement: No hoods in
16 the woods. Thank you very much.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. ROZELLE: Cheryl Rennie, you're
19 next, and Pete's going to fix that microphone for
20 us.

21 MS. RENNIE: Hi, I'm Cheryl Rennie. I
22 live in Sonoita. Three minutes do not allow me to
23 elaborate when it is apparent that the Forest
24 Service did not perform due diligence relative to
25 the economic environment when reviewing the Augusta

1 Mining Plan of Operations and, therefore, did not
2 make an informed decision in giving the go-ahead
3 for the notice of intent and the scoping process we
4 are now in, as required under NEPA.

5 Therefore, I ask that this matter be
6 immediately submitted to the appropriate NEPA
7 oversight authority for full review, and I will
8 follow up with our elected representatives.

9 However, in the short time that I have, I
10 would like to point out two especially disturbing
11 issues that I discovered in my research. First,
12 according to Augusta's annual information form
13 dated last March, some key executives are running
14 the company on a part-time basis while managing
15 other businesses, which may result in certain
16 conflicts of interests. So I ask the Forest
17 Service to consider the possible harmful financial
18 impacts on the company and project if key people
19 have to balance competing obligations with another
20 company. How would you mitigate that?

21 Secondly, the bylaws of Augusta Resource
22 Corporation provide that only two persons need to
23 be present to vote with 5 percent of outstanding
24 shares to constitute a quorum. To put this in
25 perspective, the American Stock Exchange, which

1 Augusta is listed on, requires a quorum of no less
2 than 33 and a third percent, but because Augusta is
3 a foreign company, it is exempted from this law.

4 Now, this is very significant in my mind
5 because it appears to make the company very
6 vulnerable to a hostile takeover from a hedge fund,
7 not unlike Harbinger, which already owns
8 approximately 20 percent.

9 According to court testimony, Harbinger is
10 often referred to as an activist hedge fund for its
11 proactive efforts to influence companies in which
12 it invests. While sometimes only a passive
13 investor, in many cases, Harbinger seeks to
14 maximize value through a variety of tactics,
15 including placing its representatives on the board
16 and even acquiring the target company.

17 So I would like to ask the Forest Service
18 to consider the financial impacts if Augusta is
19 taken over and sold to the highest bidder after
20 having sucked out our precious groundwater,
21 devastated our environment, and left another
22 massive clean-up for the taxpayers, how will you
23 mitigate that?

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. ROZELLE: Bonnie Isenberg.

1 MS. ISENBERG: Hello, my name is
2 Bonnie Isenberg and I'm with the Hilton Road
3 community organization. Many members of the Hilton
4 Ranch Road community feel the entire scoping
5 process for the proposed Rosemont mine has been
6 flawed from the beginning. Many in the public have
7 been led to believe that the proposed Rosemont mine
8 is a done deal. The public was not informed and
9 did not understand the purpose of the scoping
10 process.

11 The Forest Service, nor the media, have
12 made it clear that one option available to the
13 Forest Service is a decision of no-action, which
14 itself is not very clear. It means the mine would
15 not be permitted nor allowed to use the Forest
16 Service land as proposed. The initial media
17 coverage of the proposed -- of the proposal
18 repeatedly failed to mention this option, but
19 included comments by Augusta representatives that
20 would lead the public to believe that it is a done
21 deal, and the mine would be permitted.

22 A Fox 11 news report on May 12th, 2008,
23 just 74 days after the Forest Service published the
24 notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact
25 Statement made it clear that the media was just as

1 confused as the public. Fox 11's Delane Cleveland,
2 pretty much summed up how he portrays this process,
3 and I quote: Well, the reality is the Federal
4 Mining Law in effect today was passed in 1872, so
5 it makes it easy for companies such as this to put
6 mines on public lands virtually wherever they want
7 and there's not a whole lot people can do about it.

8 Heather Moore responded: Well, if there's
9 not much the public can do about it, why have the
10 scoping meetings?

11 To which Delane responded: Well, there's
12 still always that little bit of hope.

13 Was the media properly educated about the
14 NEPA process? And if not, should the Forest
15 Service have clarified this process to them so they
16 didn't misinform the public? If the process wasn't
17 confusing enough for the public, the numbers
18 provided to them certainly were. Rosemont's MPO
19 indicates that the water requirements are
20 approximately 5,000 acre-feet per year. This
21 number is used repeatedly in the media. However,
22 Rosemont has permits with the Arizona Department of
23 Water Resources to withdraw up to 6,000 acre-feet
24 per year.

25 An article in the Arizona Daily Star from

1 May 28th of 2008 titled "Mine Execs Offer Water
2 Assurance" says: A mine the size of the one
3 proposed by Rosemont Copper normally would use
4 enough water every year to supply 40,000
5 households. Officials with the Rosemont Copper say
6 they will only use half that much, 5,000 to 8,000
7 acre-feet a year by using techniques developed for
8 mining in extremely arid climates.

9 Rosemont claims they are purchasing
10 105 acre-feet of CAP water and will only use
11 9,000 acre-feet, leaving the public in excess of
12 10,000 acre-feet. However, if they were to use
13 8,000 acre-feet per year, they would draw
14 47,000 acre-feet more than they intend to purchase.
15 If their estimates could be 60 percent off,
16 shouldn't the public be aware of this? Shouldn't
17 it be stated in the MPO? Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. ROZELLE: Franny Walker is next.
20 And then let me call four more to come on down.
21 Robert Harris, Greg Shinsky, Jim Kramp, and David
22 Briggs. Franny Walker is next.

23 MS. WALKER: Hello, I'm -- hello, my
24 name is Francis Walker and I live on Hilton Ranch
25 Road. When the Rosemont proposal was first

1 introduced in an article in the Arizona Daily Star
2 on June 24th, 2006, quoted Jamie Sturgess stating
3 that the mine would employ an estimated 350 people.
4 In the minutes from the meeting by the committee on
5 National Resources held February 4th, 2007,
6 Mr. Sturgess stated the number of jobs had grown to
7 400, with an average annual wage of \$59,000 per
8 year. On April 13th, 2008, an article by the
9 Arizona Daily Star stated the mine executives
10 stated the mine will create 500 new jobs. Which
11 number is correct?

12 Section 2.10 of the Rosemont Mine Plan of
13 Operations concerning transportation states: The
14 most sensitive times of the day are considered to
15 be around shift change and early weekday mornings
16 and afternoons during the school bus hours on State
17 Route 83. Varying van pools for employees and
18 staggered work shifts will be used to reduce the
19 number of trips during these times of the day.
20 Where will the parking lots be located so the
21 workers can be picked up by the vans?

22 Also, all numbers referring to the truck
23 traffics are presented as round trip numbers, not
24 reflecting the true volume of traffic. Rosemont
25 claims the shipments will be scheduled to avoid the

1 high traffic hours on State Route 83, early
2 mornings, afternoons, and at shift change.

3 I propose Rosemont should provide a more
4 detailed traffic analysis, taking into account the
5 avoidance of the most sensitive times of day.

6 I also propose a detailed plan for their
7 employees -- for the employee bussing program be
8 completed including gathering points, detailed
9 plans -- wait -- including gathering points and
10 times, parking facilities, and that a schedule is
11 created that must be followed by both Rosemont and
12 their subcontractors for all truck traffic.

13 Repeatedly the location of the mine has
14 been referenced as 30 miles southeast of Tucson.
15 This is true if you're measuring from the city
16 center, but in reality, the proposed location of
17 the mine is 18 miles from Tucson city limits, 13
18 miles from the center of Green Valley, nine miles
19 from the center of Corona de Tucson, 10 miles from
20 the Sonoita cross road, 16 miles from the center of
21 Vail, 18 miles from the center of Patagonia,
22 21 miles from Tubac, 32 miles from Nogales,
23 32 miles from Sierra Vista, and 39 miles from
24 Tombstone. One would think that the public should
25 have been more informed of the distance of this

1 project and the other areas that could be impacted.
2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. ROZELLE: Robert Harris.

5 MR. HARRIS: Good evening, ladies and
6 gentlemen. My name's Robert Harris. I'm the last
7 public copper striker from 1983 with Phelps Dodge.
8 How much land does Rosemont actually own, lease, or
9 want? From an article in the Arizona Daily Star
10 dated 10-13-07, the copper mine will be built on
11 the Rosemont Ranch, a 20,000-acre ranch about
12 30 miles south of Tucson.

13 An article from 1-24-08 in a Tucson weekly
14 says: Augusta has been snatching up properties
15 around Rosemont Valley in the Santa Rita Mountains
16 and currently owns 18 separate parcels, including
17 leased government land, totalling 30,000 acres.

18 From an article in the Arizona Daily Star
19 dated 3-13-2008, the 4,755-acre Rosemont Copper
20 project would be built on 995 acres of private
21 land, 3,670 acres of national forest, 15 acres of
22 land administered by the BLM, and 75 acres of state
23 trust land.

24 From an article in the World Mining Stocks
25 from September of 2007, Gil Clausen, president and

1 CEO of Augusta Resources, noted that: Although
2 developing Rosemont is the company's primary focus,
3 three other properties in Augusta's landholdings
4 offered opportunities for further exploration.
5 These properties are the Pete Elgin, Broadtop
6 Butte, and Copper World prospects. The article
7 makes it clear that Augusta has no intentions of
8 stopping with the Rosemont mine. Rosemont may be
9 where they mean to start, but it looks like they
10 intend to pursue several future mines along the
11 Sonoita/Patagonia scenic route and one on the west
12 side of the Santa Ritas, which will be visible from
13 Green Valley.

14 Augusta is not making it clear to the
15 public what their future intentions are in the
16 Santa Ritas, nor can a cumulative effect of
17 exploiting all these deposits be considered.

18 The public's lack of understanding of the
19 NEPA process has been facilitated by comments made
20 by both Forest Service representatives and Augusta
21 representatives, repeated comments which lead the
22 public to believe the opposition of the mine is
23 limited.

24 For example, an article in the Arizona
25 Daily Star published 4-6-2008 about the Vail open

1 house said the following about comments from Jamie
2 Sturgess, here is a quote: He bristled at the
3 statement that nearly everyone at the forum was
4 against the mine -- oh, 30 seconds, just lost my
5 place. He referred to the group as a mixture of
6 yuppies, college kids, and senior citizens who have
7 time to come to such a forum. Anyone working and
8 presumably supporting the mine would be with their
9 family, he said. He then acknowledged that he was
10 biased for the mine because he works for the firm.
11 I do some work as a consultant for Rosemont, he
12 said. Obviously I've a vested interest in seeing
13 the mine go in. Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. ROZELLE: Greg Shinsky, please.

16 MR. SHINSKY: Howdy, folks. My name
17 is Greg Shinsky and I have been a resident of Pima
18 County for 35 years. I'm also a Hilton Road
19 resident.

20 My first question is: When does the
21 commenting period for the scoping process end?
22 Numerous statements from the Forest Service have
23 indicated that public comments will be accepted
24 after July 14th. In an article in the Tucson
25 Citizen dated June 9th, Heidi Schewel of the

1 Coronado National Forest Service said, and I quote:
2 The service will not stop taking comments after the
3 official comment period ends July 14th. We will
4 continue to accept comments beyond that point,
5 unquote.

6 From an article in the Green Valley News
7 June 10th, I quote: The Forest Service will hold
8 another hearing on June 30th at Rincon High School
9 in Tucson and we will continue to take comments
10 after the official comment period ends July 14th.
11 Comments can be given in several formats and
12 information is available on the website of the
13 Coronado National Forest, unquote.

14 In an article on July 11 in the Arizona
15 Daily Star, quote: U.S. Representatives Raul
16 Grijalva and Gabrielle Giffords, both Tucson
17 Democrats, both seeking to have the scoping efforts
18 started over. They said their constituents and
19 local government officials are confused about
20 deadlines for submitting comments.

21 On page 28, the Citizens Guide to the NEPA
22 process clearly states, quote: If you feel
23 strongly that a particular alternative should be
24 addressed and do not raise it during the scoping
25 process, then it will not get the benefit of

1 comparative analysis with the other alternatives,
2 unquote.

3 Our question is: Will all comments
4 received after July 14th be included in the
5 comprehensive analysis like those before the cutoff
6 date? If not, then we feel the Forest Service has
7 misled the public and hindered the efforts of
8 citizens to submit researched and informed comments
9 into the scoping process before the July 14th
10 deadline. We propose that a firm date be set for
11 the end of the public commenting period.

12 According to the time line established in a
13 memorandum of understanding between the Forest
14 Service and Rosemont officials, the draft EIS will
15 be completed by March 2009.

16 My second question is: How can the Forest
17 Service provide this time line prior to the end of
18 the scoping process when the public comment period
19 has no firm closing date? Is this a restrictive
20 date to accommodate Rosemont Copper's time line or
21 will the time line be extended as necessary to
22 provide the time needed to exhaustively research
23 all the public comments, alternative proposals,
24 and, most importantly, the cumulative effects on
25 the surrounding communities. Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you. Jim Kramp.

3 MR. KRAMP: Hello, my name is -- can
4 you hear me? Hello, my name is Jim Kramp. I'm a
5 concerned Hilton Road community resident. I'm
6 concerned because information has not been readily
7 available and has been consistently inaccurately
8 presented to the public.

9 Since April of 2006, Augusta Resources
10 and/or their public relations firm, Strongpoint,
11 have been the registered owners of the following
12 domain names: www.StopRosemont.com,
13 NoRosemontMine.com, and
14 SaveTheScenicSantaRitas.com, org, and all the other
15 extensions. The only rational purpose for them to
16 own those domain names would be to try to suppress
17 information from the public.

18 The open houses hosted by the Forest
19 Service for the purpose of educating the general
20 public did not provide adequate facilities to
21 opposing the Rosemont mine or those negative
22 impacts of this mine.

23 For example, at the Elgin and Vail open
24 houses, concerned organizations were allowed to set
25 up information booths but were not provided a

1 comfortable environment to discuss those concerns
2 with the general public. Extreme heat, wind, and
3 bright sun were the conditions they had to contend
4 with.

5 The Sahuarita meeting was held in a
6 facility that would not allow any organization
7 other than the Forest Service or Rosemont
8 representatives to set up information for the
9 general public.

10 While I applaud the Forest Service's
11 decision to add three open mic meetings to the
12 agenda, I question the selection of the chosen
13 locations.

14 Public anger at the Patagonia meeting
15 concerning the format of the open house would
16 certainly warrant an open mic meeting in that
17 community.

18 The Vail community with the most impact
19 should certainly have an open mic meeting, as
20 should Green Valley who is already greatly impacted
21 by mining. We find it ironic that the three
22 communities currently threatened by mining
23 activities are not being provided the opportunities
24 at a reasonable location.

25 There have been many flaws in the public

1 scoping process for the proposed Rosemont Mine.
2 Neither the public nor the media seem to understand
3 the process. Many think this is a done deal.

4 The numbers presented throughout the
5 process have been confusing, the amount of land
6 being considered is not clear, the proposed water
7 consumption is not clear, the number of jobs the
8 mine would create is not clear, the amount of
9 traffic the mine will generate or when it will
10 travel on State Route 83 is not clear, the actual
11 distance from municipalities, national preserves
12 and sensitive areas is not clear, the end of the
13 commenting period is not clear. Those impacted
14 most by the proposal have not had reasonable access
15 to voice their comments, and organizations
16 attempting to educate the public about the negative
17 impacts about the mine proposal have been excluded
18 from the public information hearings or not
19 provided reasonable accommodations.

20 As you have heard, there are many reasons
21 to feel the scoping process was flawed from the
22 beginning. I can see why Representatives Grijalva
23 and Giffords requested it be started over and I
24 thank them both for their efforts.

25 In conclusion, I propose a committee of

1 Forest Service representatives, Rosemont
2 representatives, concerned citizens, and our
3 federal representatives be formed to analyze the
4 scoping process to date, identify problems, and
5 create solutions. The Hilton Road community would
6 gladly contribute to this process.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you. All right.
9 While David Briggs is going to the mic, I'm calling
10 four more people to come down front. JoAnne Meyer,
11 Alison Bunting, Don Byron, and Kim Beck. If you'd
12 come on down front and be waiting. Thank you.

13 MR. BRIGGS: I'm David Briggs, an
14 independent consulting geologist who has worked in
15 the mining industry for 30 years.

16 Over the last four decades there has been
17 an unfounded myth that a clean environment and an
18 industrial development were incompatible. This has
19 resulted in strict, rigid laws which have led to a
20 steady decline of our country's industrial base,
21 forcing many industries which once employed
22 millions of Americans to relocate their operations
23 overseas.

24 Similarly, excessive areas within the
25 United States have been placed off limits to

1 natural resource development, including
2 approximately 9.1 million acres, or 31 percent, of
3 available federal lands in Arizona. These policies
4 have made our nation ever more dependent on foreign
5 sources for the raw materials we require to
6 maintain our high standard of living. They have
7 also resulted in our nation's ever expanding trade
8 deficit, which has -- which combined with the
9 federal government's inability to live within a
10 budget has resulted in the falling value of the
11 U.S. dollar on the international money market
12 providing the lowest value since the Great
13 Depression.

14 If current attempts to ban, limit, or
15 limit development of mines in southeastern Arizona
16 are successful, the unprecedented tactics could be
17 used to halt all proposed natural resource projects
18 throughout the western United States. It would
19 send a chilling message to the natural resource
20 industry, persuading them to cease all domestic
21 exploration, reallocate limited financial resources
22 to developing foreign projects, and an export in
23 technical expertise and hundreds of thousands of
24 high-paying jobs to overseas.

25 Our nation's dependence on copper imports

1 has climbed from zero percent in 2000 to
2 approximately 40 percent over the last five years.
3 Over the same period, mining operations located in
4 Arizona and southwestern New Mexico have accounted
5 for 69 to 78 percent of all domestic copper
6 production. This region also contains most of our
7 nations's undeveloped copper resources, access to
8 federal land is essential to maintaining a healthy
9 natural resource industry in the United States.

10 If America is going to effectively resolve
11 these problems, government, industry, and public
12 must work together to develop a strategy of how to
13 become more self-sufficient. The prosperity of our
14 children's future depends on decisions that we make
15 today.

16 With your help, Rosemont Copper will be
17 able to design, build, and operate a modern,
18 21st century mining operation which incorporates
19 innovative solutions to resolving problems that
20 have plagued many operations in the past. If
21 successful, it will not only result in significant
22 economic benefits for Pima County, the state of
23 Arizona, and this nation, but will also serve as an
24 important role model of environmental stewardship
25 and responsible corporate citizenship. Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. ROZELLE: JoAnne Meyer. By the
3 way, there is a box right up here if you want to
4 just put your comments in that box; there's also
5 one out in the lobby if you want to leave them with
6 us. This is JoAnne Meyer.

7 MS. MEYER: Hello, I'm JoAnne Meyer
8 and I'm a resident of Sonoita -- a resident of
9 Sonoita, JoAnne Meyer. And I'd like to say first,
10 to Mr. Briggs, that we do have a new mine in
11 Safford and so we're not entirely against mining in
12 Arizona. And they wanted that mine there, by the
13 way.

14 I would like to briefly address the smoke
15 and mirrors survey sanctioned by Augusta, which
16 they claim reflects a 64 percent approval of
17 Rosemont Mine by Tucson area residents if
18 management keeps its promises.

19 In reading the survey, there's no mention
20 of the actual Mine Plan of Operations and
21 information needed to give informed answers. For
22 instance, that this mine would be a huge pit in the
23 Santa Rita Mountains 6,000 feet across, 3,000 feet
24 deep, 700 acres in the pit, more than twice the
25 size of the Lavender Pit of Bisbee. Of the 397

1 people surveyed, only one was from Sonoita, one
2 from Elgin, one from Patagonia, seven from Vail,
3 and Sahuarita, and ten from Green Valley. None in
4 Corona de Tucson. These communities are closest to
5 the mine and would be most adversely affected.
6 Augusta executives say they want to be good
7 neighbors, but it's obvious Augusta doesn't care
8 about their neighbors' opinions. Tucson folks,
9 Augusta would be your neighbor too.

10 If you read the MPO, and I urge you to do
11 so, you would find, among other disturbing
12 information, that Rosemont Mine would use nine
13 million gallons of diesel fuel each year for
14 20 years. Emissions from this diesel would be
15 carried by prevailing winds to the northeast over
16 Tucson and could elevate ozone levels, which lately
17 have been 90 percent of the federal limits. Add to
18 these emissions dust and blasting residue and there
19 would be serious health issues to consider;
20 increases in lung cancer, heart attacks, and asthma
21 are likely.

22 Recent studies suggest that exposure to
23 diesel fumes can affect the brain, causing
24 oxidative stress which has been implicated in
25 degenerative brain diseases like Parkinson's

1 disease and Alzheimer's.

2 Open pit copper mines do not belong in
3 populated areas. Copper does not have to be mined
4 just because it's there. If this deposit was at
5 Push Ridge or in the Catalina Foothills, would a
6 mine be considered? I think not.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. ROZELLE: Alison Bunting.

9 MS. BUNTING: I'm Alison Bunting and I
10 live in Sonoita. In May I had an e-mail exchange
11 with the managing editor of one of our local TV
12 news stations about media coverage of the proposed
13 Rosemont Copper Mine. I was upset about the
14 statement made by a reporter after the Elgin
15 hearings, and this is the second time you'll hear
16 it tonight. "Well, the reality is that the Federal
17 Mining Law in effect today was passed in 1872, so
18 it makes it easy for companies such as this to put
19 mines on public lands virtually wherever they want
20 and there's not a whole lot people can do about
21 it."

22 I noted that the statements such as this
23 could have the effect of discouraging citizens from
24 voicing their opinions, and that I felt we could
25 make a difference in the outcome of the Forest

1 Service evaluation, but only if the media provides
2 objective and informed coverage.

3 The editor replied by e-mail, yes, the law
4 requires public input and the Forest Service is
5 doing due diligence in acquiring that and people
6 are certainly within their rights to voice their
7 opinions, but if you read the law or talk to
8 experts on it, the vast majority of the chips are
9 with the company.

10 One Forest Service supervisor has told me
11 that so far they have read or heard nothing they
12 could use to stop construction of the mine. I'm
13 delighted that, despite persistent commentary about
14 this mine being a done deal, local citizens have
15 turned out in great numbers at the Forest Service
16 hearings and have submitted over 375 megabytes of
17 written comments through the end of May.

18 Tonight I'd like to challenge the Tucson
19 media to provide more than superficial coverage of
20 a topic that is vitally important to the residents
21 of southern Arizona. The scheduled public hearings
22 conclude tonight, depriving you of easy access to
23 sound bites. After July 14th, the
24 behind-the-scenes work will begin at the Forest
25 Service as they analyze the scoping comments and

1 identify the issues that need to be addressed in
2 the EIS. Will you let this analysis take place
3 outside of public view?

4 The following are just a few issues raised
5 as a result of community research that merit
6 investigation and might even result in one of those
7 coveted media awards.

8 Investigating why, if it is true, that
9 Forest Service supervisors back in May were voicing
10 opinions that implied that the mine is a done deal;
11 determining if and when the Forest Service will
12 appoint the community work group they promised
13 Congresswoman Giffords; doing research on the
14 expertise of the Coronado National Forest staff who
15 are doing the evaluation; monitoring whether the
16 Forest Service brings in necessary expertise;
17 determining that appropriate cooperating agencies
18 are involved in the NEPA process; analyzing the
19 ability of Augusta, a young company that has never
20 operated a mine, to do what it's proposing, seems
21 like a thorough investigation of professional,
22 financial, and legal histories of Augusta and
23 Augusta's directors and officers is in order.
24 Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you. Don Byron.

2 MR. BYRON: A little broader in scope.
3 I'm a mining professional. I'm an engineer
4 consultant. I've worked in the mining industry in
5 U.S. and Canada and Mexico for better than 30
6 years. Copper is an important element. Better
7 than 90 percent occurs within a 2,250 mile radius
8 of Tucson, Arizona, and copper mining is long
9 established in Arizona, along with all necessary
10 infrastructure to mine, process, and ship. Mining
11 locations, San Manuel, Twin Buttes, Baghdad,
12 Morenci, to name a few. And the Safford Freeport-
13 McMoRan PD project is underway. Also proposed is
14 BHP RTZ in the Superior/Miami area under
15 development.

16 These are mining companies, with all
17 required infrastructure in place or available.
18 Rosemont Copper is not a mining company, on paper
19 only. They have about six, eight people talking on
20 their behalf down in the Milroy Ranch, around
21 various places, and they're nice people. You can't
22 blame them for what they're doing.

23 On the other hand, Rosemont Copper and,
24 behind it, Augusta Resources, is a typical
25 Vancouver-based resource company. They locate,

1 find a prospect, looks pretty good, begin
2 development process, print a glowing prospectus,
3 get it listed on the U.S., Canadian, and Europe
4 stock markets, and promote, promote. The only
5 thing Rosemont Mining is at the present time is
6 investor warrants, and that's a fact.

7 Under the guise of mining, Rosemont Company
8 proposes to invade a pristine ecologically and
9 sensitive area, a portion of the Coronado National
10 Forest, and thereby destroy and displace all of the
11 flora, fauna, squander groundwater, cut off all
12 public general recreation use. And all support for
13 such a mine has to be brought in from outside.
14 None is there. A formula for disaster and
15 disruption of all business activities. Families
16 living south on SR 83, which depend on SR 83 daily,
17 many, many commuters.

18 Lastly, water, in its liquid state, is
19 increasingly the most important mineral in Arizona,
20 more so than copper. And this fact --

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. BYRON: And this fact must be
23 acknowledged by each and every one of us and acted
24 upon responsibly at every opportunity.

25 Rosemont we don't need. Plans -- plans to

1 use 5,000 acre-feet of water, that's 3,100 gpm
2 24/7. That's reason enough to deny them any permit
3 to proceed. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you. Kim Beck,
6 and I'm going to call three more and then we'll
7 take a break. So Lyman Tenney, Steve Maracigan --
8 I'm sorry -- Empire Southwest, and Mikki Niemi. Go
9 ahead, Kim.

10 MS. BECK: Can you hear me okay? My
11 name is Kim Beck and I'm the coordinator for Save
12 the Scenic Santa Ritas. The Forest Service says
13 they must follow the law of the land in considering
14 Rosemont Copper's request for use of public lands.
15 In a government formed by the people, of the
16 people, and for the people, it's imperative that
17 the people are listened to as well. It's the will
18 of most of southern Arizona that this land should
19 remain in its natural state.

20 As of June 30th, today, 2008, I am
21 submitting more than 6,000 signatures of Americans
22 who own and use this public land. All of them
23 oppose this line -- this mine. I also want to read
24 you a list of every elected official and government
25 body in the region that opposes the Rosemont

1 project: Both county boards, Pima and Santa Cruz
2 Counties, the City of Tucson, Town of Marana, Town
3 of Patagonia, Town of Oro Valley, and Sahuarita,
4 and the Green Valley Community Coordinating Council
5 have all passed unanimous resolutions opposing the
6 mine. Both Congressmen Raul Grijalva and Gabrielle
7 Giffords are in total opposition of the mine
8 project as well. Arizona State legislators, Tim
9 Bee, Marian McClure, Jonathan Paton, Paula Aboud,
10 Tom Prezelski, and Phil Lopes are also in
11 opposition of -- to the project.

12 At the U.S. Forest Service hearings held so
13 far to take public comments, out of the hundreds of
14 people that have attended, at most a dozen have
15 spoken in favor of the mine project, and nearly all
16 of those work for the company. In short,
17 opposition to the project is overwhelming. This is
18 not a done deal.

19 Finally, I'm submitting a list of just some
20 of the organizations so far who have also
21 officially opposed the mine, representing more than
22 34,000 southern Arizonians, that includes: The
23 Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, Southern
24 Arizona Hang Gliding Association, Tucson
25 Orienteering Club, Sierra Club, Friends of the

1 Jaguar, Santa Rita Foothills Community Association,
2 Pantano Christian Church Motorcycle Group, Tanque
3 Verde Valley Association, Sonoran Desert Mountain
4 Bicyclists, Republicans for Environmental
5 Protection, Cienega Watershed Partnership, Singing
6 Valley North Homeowners Association, Tucson Arts
7 Brigade; Jarnac Observatory, Maricopa Audubon, and
8 Long Realty of Sonoita and Patagonia.

9 Our efforts to collect these signatures and
10 endorsements will continue through the entire
11 process of this ordeal. My question to the Forest
12 Service in making its decision is: Does the will
13 of the people count? How can you say it doesn't
14 with opposition like this: Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you, Kim. All
17 right. Lyman Tenney.

18 MR. TENNEY: Hi, my name's Lyman
19 Tenney. I live in Sonoita. I actually live on the
20 Rosemont Camp. I am the ranch foreman and I run
21 all the operating on-site for cattle, water, and
22 everything that goes on with the ranch, including
23 round-up that we just got done with recently. I
24 ride those mountains, they're beautiful, there's no
25 doubt, every day. It's a great scenic route.

1 There's a lot of people that do visit. There's a
2 lot of people that leave trash and tear things up
3 and tear my fences down and do things of that
4 nature. I'd take you guys for a tour and show you
5 all the trash that's around there left by people
6 that I pick up so it doesn't kill my cows.

7 To the issue about the mine, just so
8 there's no mistake, I am for the mine. Arizona is
9 known as a copper state. That's not a saying,
10 that's the way we are known. There's a reason.
11 The reason is we have so much copper in the ground,
12 and that is a huge benefit to the United States as
13 a whole. This country was developed historically
14 by having copper, and being able to produce it and
15 the multi-hundreds of billions of dollars it's
16 produced for the economy of the whole United States
17 and most of it in southern Arizona.

18 For some people that don't know, everything
19 in this world is either mined or grown. There's no
20 other way to develop it; you can't make something
21 out of thin air. If you want to get some metal,
22 you have to mine it. If you want to have clothes
23 to wear, you -- most people like cotton, good
24 fabric, you have to grow it, you have to pick it,
25 and then you send it to a plant and it provides

1 jobs. The more that the -- the more things we can
2 keep on our home turf, the United States, the more
3 jobs we have, the better our economy is, and keeps
4 us as a super power.

5 This is not just a little project. This
6 project is -- there was a study done by George F.
7 Learning (phonetic), with the Pima County, and he
8 said the economic impact over this 19-year period
9 would be \$43.7 billion. You want to talk about an
10 economic stimulus package? There it is. I don't
11 need the \$600 check in the mail of a tax rebate.
12 We can put this in Americans' pockets and spend it
13 here in --

14 AUDIENCE: China, Japan.

15 MS. ROZELLE: Excuse me. Please show
16 some respect for the speaker.

17 MR. TENNEY: We can mine responsibly
18 and this corporation has put good proposals on the
19 ground and if you listen to them, it is amazing
20 that they are taking the environment and the
21 neighbors into consideration. They have answers
22 for you guys, and people misrepresent, misspeak --

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you. Steve?

25 MR. MARACIGAN: My name is Steve

1 Maracigan. I'm a native, second generation native
2 Tusconan. I've always loved the site down in the
3 Sonoita area. I'm free of concern, however, I'm a
4 supporter of this mine, and I work for Empire
5 Machinery, and our company is involved with mining
6 direct by selling equipment.

7 This mine is very important to our economy,
8 not only in the state but local, and selling to
9 China, selling to anybody that buys the copper, the
10 money comes home here. And it's important. It
11 helps --

12 MS. ROZELLE: Excuse me.

13 MR. MARACIGAN: Our state official
14 seal, approved and adopted in 1911, shows the state
15 of Arizona key enterprises: Copper, cotton, and
16 cattle. Empire, a privately-held company, is a
17 value-based company. We give 2 percent of our
18 prebased profit back to our community. That's
19 huge. Mining is a large part of our company. We
20 -- and our success.

21 We've employed -- in the mid-1980s, we were
22 down to 700 employees due to the mining cutbacks.
23 Our -- today our employment is up to over 1,800
24 people. And it's important to our company, as well
25 as our families. This mine is good for our state,

1 our town, and our families. And I support this
2 mine. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. ROZELLE: You'll recall when I was
5 laying out the ground rules, I asked you all to be
6 courteous and to listen with respect, and now I'm
7 telling you to do that. Thank you.

8 Mikki Niemi.

9 MS. NIEMI: Well, since I'm last --
10 I'm against the mine, but now I'm going to tell you
11 why. I was born in Ajo, everybody knows it's a
12 mining town. I'm fourth generation Arizonan, on my
13 mother's side. My great-grandfather put the
14 railroad through in the 1800s. My father's parents
15 moved to Bisbee in 1915 to work in the mines. My
16 grandfather worked there 'til in the '50s. That
17 was PD, Phelps Dodge, and CNA, American companies.
18 Bisbee, Ajo was Phelps Dodge, American company.

19 They -- my father went to work in Ajo in
20 '36, moved to Bisbee to open up the pit in '51, and
21 he retired in '74. So I went to work. I worked
22 three summers while I was going to university in
23 Bisbee. The mine was good for me, it was good for
24 the people who lived there. I came to Tucson. I
25 worked at Pima Mine, which most of you know as

1 Asarco now, in the '60s. I'm not against mining,
2 but I'm against foreign companies coming in and
3 raping our country and taking our reserves
4 someplace else.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. NIEMI: Those are copper reserves.
7 We need to keep them as reserves. Some day we're
8 going to need them and we'll have to dig them out,
9 but we don't have to do it now and sell it to
10 China.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. NIEMI: In a few years the copper
13 will be gone, there will be a big ugly hole with
14 nothing, and no water -- oh, speaking of water,
15 where is this magic thing that's going to come
16 from? They use 5,000 acre-feet a year, whatever
17 their thing is, and they say they're going to
18 replenish it with CAP water. All the water that
19 comes from Avra Valley to Pima Mine Road is used.
20 The pipe is X number -- X size. It's full. Part
21 goes to the pecans, part goes to the city of
22 Tucson. There's none left for the mines. They're
23 going to have to build a new mine -- a new thing
24 all the way from Avra Valley clear to Green Valley
25 to put it in. You can't put it in Phoenix and

1 Marana and say, "Oh, we'll replenish the water to
2 Tucson." That doesn't get it. That doesn't help.

3 Modeer used to be the director. Today is
4 his last day as water director, he said. He told
5 me a couple of years ago when they brought this up,
6 he said there's no way that there's CAP water going
7 to come to Pima Mine unless they enlarge it.

8 CAP, they measured that in Lake Meade, the
9 elevation today is 1,105 feet. A year ago, it was
10 1,130. If it gets to 1,175, we lose part of our
11 water. When it gets to 1,125, we lose all of our
12 water. We can't afford this. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. ROZELLE: All right. Thank you.
15 We're going to take a break now. Let me call the
16 next five people just so you know who's on deck,
17 and we will reconvene about 7:25. So when we do
18 that, it's Gayle Hartmann, Rod Pace, Chuck Hammond,
19 Elizabeth Webb, and Mylan Webb. All right?

20 (A break was taken.)

21 MS. LEWIN: Good evening, folks.
22 Okay, folks, thank you. As I mentioned earlier, we
23 have 106 speaker cards, so we want to get started.
24 And we have a few housekeeping things to discuss
25 before we get started. All right. I'm just going

1 to speak really loudly then. I'm from New York,
2 too, so I can do that.

3 I'm Sue Lewin and I'm also an independent
4 moderator, not working directly on the project. As
5 I mentioned, we have 106 speaker cards, so we need
6 to be courteous and let everybody get through. If
7 people are interrupted, we're going to stop the
8 time, it's just going to make everybody sit here
9 longer, so we ask your indulgence with that.

10 Also, we've had some noise complaints from
11 some of the audience participants. This is the
12 best we can do 'til we get the microphone fixed.
13 We have had some complaints that the banging of the
14 doors is making it difficult for people to hear.
15 So while we have a speaker up at the podium, we ask
16 that you do not go in and out of the doors; wait
17 'til they stop speaking, please.

18 And we would like the speakers to queue up
19 in the front row, please. That helps us keep
20 better track of the speakers. And also if you have
21 a mobility challenge, where you need a microphone
22 brought to you, only if you need it, we will do
23 that if you let us know. And, hopefully, we'll
24 have one that works. Okay?

25 MS. ROZELLE: Is this one on now? Is

1 this one on? Okay.

2 MS. LEWIN: Okay. Our next speaker is
3 Gayle Hartmann.

4 MS. HARTMANN: Well, let's see here,
5 let's try this. Any better? I'm Gayle Hartmann.
6 I'm president of the Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
7 association, a nonprofit group that is dedicated to
8 protecting the Santa Ritas and to opposing this
9 mine.

10 As was stated earlier, our website was
11 indeed stolen by Augusta. Thus we have
12 www.ScenicSantaRitas.org. However, I just learned
13 this evening that they have released our website
14 and we can get it back. So you never quite know
15 what's going on in this game.

16 We're submitting some detailed written
17 comments regarding the mine, so I have only a
18 couple of things to say this evening that I hope
19 are germane.

20 First, I went to Vancouver, British
21 Columbia, last week to attend the Augusta Resource
22 shareholders meeting. The attendance was very
23 small at the meeting, a few directors primarily,
24 but I think it was worthwhile. The primary reason
25 to go was to show that we here in southern Arizona

1 are serious in our opposition to this mine, we're
2 willing to travel to the shareholders meeting,
3 we're not going to give up, and we're not going to
4 go away.

5 Point number two, the Forest Service has
6 now held three open houses, three public forums,
7 this is the last, and almost without exception,
8 speakers have expressed strong negative feelings
9 toward this proposal. Emotions have ranged from
10 dismay to horror to fear to unhappiness to absolute
11 rage.

12 As Kim Beck, our coordinator, said a few
13 minutes ago, there is unanimous opposition to the
14 proposal from elected officials. As one county
15 supervisor said recently, this proposal has done
16 something no one else has ever been able to do, it
17 has united all elected officials from all political
18 persuasions in opposition.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. HARTMANN: Thus, when the Forest
21 Service is deliberating on the merits of the
22 project, we want them to keep in mind the strength
23 of the opposition and its breadth. This level of
24 concern is as important, if not more, than comments
25 on individual technical issues. For this scoping

1 process to in any way be democratic, the concerns
2 of the community must be incorporated, and they
3 must be heeded.

4 I don't want to jump too far ahead, but at
5 this point, the no-action alternative seems to me
6 to be the most rational decision. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Gayle. Our
9 next speaker is Rod Pace.

10 MR. PACE: Hello, my name is Rod Pace.
11 I live in Tucson. I'm the general manager for the
12 Rosemont project. I'm a degreed engineer in
13 mining. I have 27 years in mining. I've went to
14 school in Colorado School of Mines in Golden,
15 Colorado. I'm an American citizen and I've always
16 worked in the United States. I worked for one
17 company for 25 years before I came to Augusta
18 Resource. I came to Augusta Resource because it
19 was a chance to do some new things, to look at some
20 things in a different way, to build a
21 state-of-the-art mine; I'm very excited about the
22 project.

23 Rosemont is a world class deposit which
24 will supply approximately 10 percent of the U.S.
25 copper production for the next 18 years, directly

1 employing 500 people, and contributing \$250 million
2 to the Arizona economy annually.

3 And there's been some confusion on the
4 number of people, and I apologize for that, 'cause
5 the project itself employs 500 people; the mine
6 employs 350 and the process plant will employ about
7 150, making the total of 500 employees.

8 Currently, the U.S. imports 40 percent of
9 its copper needs. Copper shortages have caused the
10 price of copper to increase from a buck 55 years
11 ago to over 350 currently, and we're not going to
12 see an end to that unless we start producing more
13 copper and the U.S. can control our own destiny.

14 We do not have a smelter and we're not
15 going to build a smelter at this mine site, which
16 requires the ore concentrate to be smelted to get
17 the final product, to get the oxide, this will have
18 to be shipped to existing smelters, and I continue
19 to hear that we're shipping all of our copper to
20 China.

21 The problem we have here is that the U.S.
22 has recently closed two smelters. So smelter
23 capacity in the U.S. doesn't allow us to smelt
24 copper currently in the U.S. We would love to
25 smelt the copper in the U.S., it would be much more

1 beneficial to us. So we have to look at
2 alternatives. If they do not open smelters like
3 the El Paso's smelter back up, we're going to be
4 forced to send our smelters -- our copper to
5 smelters overseas, so we're making contingency
6 plans for this. We're not doing it because we want
7 to ship it to China. The money's still going to be
8 going to the U.S.

9 The exciting thing about Rosemont is it's
10 environmentally sound, state-of-the-art practices.
11 We are filtering the tailings, which results in 50
12 percent less water than similar sized mines that
13 use wet tailing systems.

14 We're looking at conservation of topsoil.
15 We're using flat slopes so the topsoil can be put
16 back on. We can revegetate as we go on.

17 We're using new equipment like tier 2.
18 They meet all the pollution requirements in
19 California, some of the toughest pollution controls
20 in the U.S., so we're using the equipment that's
21 computerized too. Thank you very much. I'm
22 excited about this project.

23 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Rod. Our next
24 speaker is Chuck Hammond, and we have a request
25 from our court reporter, please do not walk in

1 front of her. We're going to have to walk around
2 through the second aisle because we can't bump her
3 equipment. Thank you.

4 MR. HAMMOND: Good afternoon. My name
5 is Chuck Hammond. Everybody hear me now? My
6 name's Chuck Hammond and I live north of Sonoita
7 very close to where this proposed mine will operate
8 if the Forest Service is foolish enough to allow it
9 to proceed without --

10 My name is Chuck Hammond. I live north of
11 Sonoita, very close to where this proposed mine
12 will operate, that is, if the Forest Service is
13 foolish enough to allow it to proceed without
14 enough water in the west to even allow the world's
15 largest or 11th largest economy, California, to
16 keep building homes.

17 Lake Meade is going to be completely dry in
18 ten years. We're going to be a dust bowl out
19 there. Las Vegas will be dark if that happens and
20 maybe so will San Diego.

21 I've brought a couple of items with me
22 today, familiar items up here on the stage. One is
23 a cell phone, regular old cell phone that uses
24 quite a bit of copper and so do the systems that
25 make it operate so well. And I also brought a

1 bottle of water which I got from my kitchen this
2 morning.

3 I brought them up here because I think it
4 very well illustrates the stark choices that we
5 face in this matter today. Unfortunately, there's
6 simply not enough water left in the west to
7 continue to have both of these things; we can't
8 have them both. We'll have to give up one or the
9 other. That's the reality of the situation. It's
10 just the reality of the situation, it's just that
11 simple. We can't have both.

12 Now, I can live without the cell phone,
13 folks, I can live without it; I don't need it. I
14 didn't use it before or didn't have it before and I
15 lived without it. I can live without it again.
16 It'll be difficult because I've gotten used to it,
17 but I can live without it. I can live without that
18 cell phone, it's not a problem.

19 But this I can't live without. I have to
20 drink a lot of that every day or I die. That's the
21 reality of the situation too. I'm 98 percent water
22 and if I don't have water every day, I'll die.
23 That's it. That's the reality of the situation.

24 So for me the choice is very clear. It
25 would be foolish and irresponsible for the Forest

1 Service to allow this mine proposal to go any
2 farther. Wasting more taxpayer money, fuel, and
3 time. We face a hard choice but a choice must be
4 made. There's not enough water for us to have both
5 of these things, not enough water to build and
6 operate this mine, not enough water for the
7 hundreds of people who come to Sonoita to live in
8 it or work on it or in it.

9 No copper mine, please. Make a decision as
10 though our very lives depend upon it, because they
11 do. It truly is as simple as that. Just say no.
12 Just say no. No mine.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Chuck. Our
15 next speaker is Elizabeth Webb, and while she's
16 walking up, I'd like to call up Peter Davis, James
17 Webb, J.J. Lamb, Robert Robuck, and Charlotte Cook.
18 And if you would please sit in the second aisle
19 there. Thank you. Or second row.

20 MS. ELIZABETH WEBB: I had another
21 paragraph planned, but I had to cut it out because
22 what I wanted to say is I attended the Natural
23 Resources Career Fair on Saturday and while I found
24 that really sleazy, underhanded, and horrible on
25 Rosemont Augusta's part, I was the only one there

1 amongst about 80 percent men who were looking for
2 jobs, and I tell you what, we stood outside in the
3 hot sun talking, and I was treated with respect.
4 It was very, very obvious that I was there as an
5 environmentalist, community activist person; I had
6 my Vail T-shirt on and I was not treated with the
7 disrespect that I saw tonight for those two men who
8 came up here tonight to talk and to speak their
9 mind, and it does not help our cause when that
10 happens, and it makes everybody angry right now,
11 and if I lost some minutes with my two paragraphs,
12 so be it.

13 My name is Elizabeth Webb -- my name is
14 Elizabeth Webb and I'm a 39-year Pima County
15 resident. In 1969 when I was a year old, my family
16 moved to Tucson. The National Environmental Policy
17 Act was signed into law in 1970. I hate to say
18 which has held up better.

19 Where are we today? You tell me. I envy
20 those of you who are fighting Rosemont Copper.
21 I've been fighting an agency that we pay for with
22 our tax dollars for the last four months, yes, with
23 our tax dollars. This is an agency that is
24 supposed to be the authority and the decision on
25 how to use our American resources. I've been fired

1 for less than the actions of one employee in
2 particular.

3 For those of you who are outraged at the
4 actions of a corporation here to pillage and
5 plunder our country for profit, do you expect a
6 snake to do anything other than to strike? Do you
7 expect a skunk to do anything other than to spray?

8 It is our job to stop Rosemont Copper, just
9 as Rosemont Copper/Augusta Resources has an
10 obligation to make money for their stockholders. I
11 can't blame them for what they are.

12 Please listen to a little story you might
13 have heard, just something for some of you to bear
14 in mind. A scorpion, being a very poor swimmer,
15 asked a turtle to carry him on his back across the
16 river. "Are you mad?" exclaimed the turtle.
17 "You'll sting me while I'm swimming and I'll
18 drown." "My dear turtle," laughed the scorpion,
19 "if I were to sting you, you would drown and I'd
20 drown with you. Now where is the logic in that?"
21 "You're right," cried the turtle, "hop on."

22 The scorpion climbed aboard and, halfway
23 across the river, gave the turtle a mighty sting.
24 As they both sank to the bottom, the turtle
25 resignedly asked, "May I ask you something? You

1 said there is no logic in stinging me. Why did you
2 do it?" "It has nothing to do with logic," the
3 scorpion said, "it's just my nature."

4 Let me assure you, as I stood in the hot
5 sun speaking with miners, machinists, and with the
6 same high school location to get these goodies,
7 there was not awareness about a Forest Service
8 process for Rosemont Copper. T&I Partners handed
9 out free Tucson Citizen with the new call-in line
10 to Forest Service to mine attendees, provided a
11 free call-in line. Without providing education
12 about the NEPA process does not qualify as
13 educating the public. Opponents of this project
14 are not the only ones who have been let down, it's
15 the supporters as well. Thank you.

16 MS. LEWIN: Our next speaker is Mylan
17 Webb.

18 MS. MYLAN WEBB: My name is Mylan Webb
19 and I'm a student in the Vail School District. It
20 was a 70-mile round trip to testify today. I spoke
21 at the hearing in Sahuarita also. Why did we drive
22 so far? Because our community, which has a
23 population of close to 45,000 people and 25,000
24 registered voters did not have a hearing, even
25 though it is the community closest to the proposed

1 copper mine and most of its impacts. We still have
2 not figured out why.

3 My dad drives 100 miles every day round
4 trip to work on the interstate. He uses vegetable
5 oil so it does not cost as much as gas does, but my
6 mom drives everywhere. This is the interstate that
7 would be used to haul copper to the port of Tucson.
8 The port of Tucson is in the Vail School District.

9 There are not very many businesses in Vail,
10 Corona or Rita Ranch, so most of my friends'
11 parents drive on the interstate to work. We do not
12 want to see our parents, grandparents, and friends
13 possibly killed on the interstate by all of these
14 mine trucks and other increased traffic.

15 Diesel is a little cheaper this week. My
16 mom paid a little bit more than \$4.60 a gallon this
17 week, instead of the \$4.89 from last week. My dad
18 said to let us have a hearing in Vail so that she
19 would stop putting so many miles on the car and
20 spend so much money on gas. If it costs so much
21 for her to put diesel in the Jeep, how much is it
22 going to cost to drive all these semis loaded with
23 copper back and forth for trips in an hour from the
24 proposed mine?

25 The most important thing to remember is

1 this: By ignoring us, it is only going to hurt
2 everyone in the long run. Please give us what we
3 deserve, which is our own open microphone hearing
4 when school's actually in session. The first three
5 open houses and last two hearings were held during
6 Vail School District breaks. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. LEWIN: Peter Davis.

9 MR. DAVIS: Good evening, ladies and
10 gentlemen. It's such a pleasure to be here with
11 you this evening. However, at my age, it's a
12 pleasure to be anywhere. Senator Tim Bee sends his
13 personal regrets that he could not be with you
14 tonight because, as president of the Senate, he's
15 still in Phoenix with Janet tying up the loose ends
16 of the last legislative session. Well, by now, I
17 hope he's getting some needed rest.

18 Three minutes is not a lot of time to
19 discuss this proposal by Augusta Company so let me
20 get right to the point. I had an opportunity to
21 talk to a former employee of the Forest Service
22 whose named escapes me at this moment. He told me
23 that he was a former director of the Forest Service
24 and at the meeting he was acting as a consultant to
25 the Rosemont Mining Company. I don't know how you

1 feel about that, but I felt that that was an
2 abomination. Jesus said it better than I can: One
3 cannot be master to two faiths. After all, are not
4 the taxpayers paying for his retirement while he
5 represents the mining company against the interests
6 of the taxpayers? This may not be illegal, but in
7 my view, it is certainly immoral.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. DAVIS: I address my remarks to
10 the current service employees. Let's deal with the
11 facts. Rosemont has every right to mine on their
12 current property. And there's little we can
13 legally do to stop them. However, that is not what
14 they're asking you, the Forest Service, to approve.
15 They are asking the Forest Service to turn 3,500
16 acres of pristine property into a slag heap,
17 another mining dump. Ladies and gentlemen of the
18 Forest Service, we want you to know that we are
19 opposed to this proposal and you should be too.

20 In 1916, the Congress of these United
21 States of America created the National Forest
22 Service. I believe that Teddy Roosevelt, founder
23 of the national parks, would hang his head in shame
24 if you let this project go through. Let me remind
25 you that the whole purpose of the Forest Service

1 is, and I quote: To conserve the scenery and the
2 national and historic objects and the wildlife
3 therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the
4 same in such a manner and such means as will leave
5 them unimpaired for the future generations. Ladies
6 and gentlemen of the Forest Service, your approval
7 of this project will turn this pristine land into a
8 garbage dump for the benefit of Rosemont mine.

9 I believe any unbiased and reasonable
10 person would believe that the approval of this
11 proposal would be a violation of your oath of
12 office and a violation of the Forest Service for
13 which you have sworn to uphold. Ladies and
14 gentlemen of the Forest Service, we beg you, we
15 implore you, we beseech you to reject this
16 application. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. LEWIN: James Webb.

19 MR. WEBB: Hello. My name is James
20 Webb and I normally let my wife and daughter speak
21 at these things, but since this is the last one, I
22 thought I better speak up. I am a manufacturing
23 process engineer with a degree in material science
24 and engineering and I have an MBA as well. I'm
25 currently employed at an aerospace firm and prior

1 to that was employed at a research and development
2 firm. While research and development is rewarding,
3 it is difficult to make a good living at it.

4 And I recognize the need for metals, and
5 when I went back to school for my MBA, I chose to
6 pay for that degree by myself rather than using my
7 company's program and obtaining a master's degree
8 in metallurgy.

9 As a whole, I question this entire process,
10 how this entire process has been handled. Entire
11 communities have been ignored or forced to drive
12 excessive distances to come to meetings.

13 I would also like to address or to make
14 comments about the social issues that have been
15 raised regarding our Iraqi war veterans and their
16 need for jobs in such places as mines. My
17 brother-in-law served two tours of duty in Iraq,
18 first during the initial invasion and has a
19 meritorious service medal and Army commendation and
20 a combat action badge. He is also diagnosed with
21 posttraumatic stress disorder and I cannot imagine
22 that he would want to drive one of the large mining
23 trucks after being hit by an IED during the war.

24 For anyone such as the woman who testified
25 twice to imply that we need these jobs in copper

1 mines for our vets is insane. To make any sort of
2 implication that people who are against this mine
3 or any mining might not be patriotic is using a
4 situation unfairly.

5 I have a good understanding of economics,
6 markets, and the effects of politics as I grew up
7 as a state department child overseas. I was
8 evacuated in Pakistan because of the political
9 climate when I was very young, and I attended high
10 school in South Africa during apartheid.

11 From these I ask this question: Is it
12 logical to open new mining operations when
13 perfectly acceptable mines have been closed in
14 recent years, such as the one in San Manuel, where
15 our miners were taken and retrained in other
16 occupations? Thank you very much.

17 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Mr. Webb.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. LEWIN: J.J. Lamb.

20 MS. LAMB: I'm J.J. Lamb. I live in
21 Vail and I'm co-director of the Vail Preservation
22 Society. Our community is rich in historic
23 resources, as well as home to the Cienega Creek and
24 a watershed that provides 20 percent of the
25 recharge for the Tucson Basin.

1 The ranchers and homesteaders who founded
2 our community left us a strong legacy, one that
3 they would expect us to protect. The proposed mine
4 will impact important historic resources like the
5 VR Ranch, the Rosemont Camp, and a prehistoric
6 Hohokam ball court. As we work to build strong
7 connections between our community's past and its
8 future, we want to protect both the cultural and
9 natural resources of the region.

10 We have grave concerns about the effect of
11 groundwater pumping that can't help but
12 irreversibly change our lush desert, dry up the
13 rare riparian areas, and affect that watershed that
14 supplies 20 percent of the recharge for Tucson
15 Basin.

16 We're also not really convinced that the
17 large trucks that will be traveling Highway 83 can
18 safely share the roadway with our school children.
19 There are too many uncertainties to risk the lives
20 of community members on roads not designed for such
21 heavy traffic, and the certain irreversible damage
22 to an important and essential watershed.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, J.J. Our next
25 speaker is Robert Robuck, and before Robert starts

1 to speak, I'd like to call the next five speakers,
2 Valerie Smith, Nancy Freeman, Bruce Kerrigan, Jason
3 Smith, and Emmet, it looks like, Cleary with Terex.
4 If you'd come and sit up front, please.

5 MR. ROBUCK: Good evening. I'm glad
6 to see all of you showed up tonight. As she said,
7 my name is Robert Robuck. I'm a resident of
8 Sahuarita. It has been many wonderful days showing
9 up at these meetings to inform people of what's
10 actually going on, but I have not heard yet anybody
11 speak of the wasted water.

12 The amount of water Rosemont plans on using
13 is three -- 31,870 gallons a minute. They claim
14 they can recycle 89 percent of that, and they only
15 need the 6,000 acre-feet a year. 6,000 acre-feet
16 is 1,955,226,000 gallons of water a year for the
17 next 20 years. We cannot afford to waste that much
18 water.

19 Now, Jamie Sturgess stood up and spoke last
20 time about a contract that they've negotiated with
21 the Sahuarita well owners and that he was getting
22 50 people to sign that. Today I'm carrying a
23 letter from a lawyer, Hugh Hollup (phonetic), the
24 attorney that represents the United Sahuarita Well
25 Owners that states the Rosemont Mine, Jamie A.

1 Sturgess, who it negotiated with, has agreed to do
2 a comprehensive hydrological study to identify any
3 impacts Rosemont's proposed pumping of groundwater
4 would have on the neighborhood wells in Sahuarita.
5 Proposed impact? There will be an impact.

6 When they did their well testing, several
7 wells went dry, and they were only testing. They
8 weren't pumping the 5,000 gallons a minute of water
9 they plan on pumping. It's ridiculous. Jamie A.
10 Sturgess stated on that date at the Sahuarita High
11 School Forest Service hearing about these 50 people
12 who signed: I'd like to know if the Forest Service
13 has those 50 signatures? Do you have a contract
14 that states that they're going to take care of the
15 Sahuarita well owners? Do you have a contract that
16 they're going to bring CAP water and replenish the
17 water that they're mining out of Sahuarita?

18 We live 15 miles from the mine and we're
19 going to be adversely affected by Rosemont's mining
20 of our water. How can this be? We live in a
21 desert. And now they're going to destroy the
22 pristine country that the Forest Service is
23 supposed to protect?

24 I can't understand. If I were to go up
25 there and cut down a tree, I'd be in jail, I'd be

1 paying huge fines, but they're going to dump tons
2 of dirt, tons, destroying the beautiful forest.
3 And what about all the animals that are going to be
4 there? Are they planning on protecting these
5 animals? What are they going to do to stop those
6 beautiful animals from being buried with tons of
7 dirt? They're making it -- turn our forest into a
8 dirt dump.

9 MS. LEWIN: Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. LEWIN: Charlotte Cook.

12 MS. COOK: Hello, my name is Charlotte
13 Cook. I'm with the Empire Fagan Coalition. I had
14 a whole form wrote out, so you're going to have to
15 just listen to me blabber on because I spent my day
16 today at the watershed meeting where Rosemont was.
17 I then have to take my personal time and gas to run
18 home and feed horses and family, then make it back
19 here to this meeting. I've lost my papers, but I
20 will get them in by the 14th, I promise. I've had
21 my family on hold for their family vacation because
22 we can't organize our life until this is done.
23 This is first. It's worth it if this gets done.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. Cook: You listen to everybody

1 about the water from this area being drained. I am
2 off of scenic Highway 83, off of Old Sonoita
3 Highway. I'm told I'm on the plume side. The dry
4 tailings are going to be taking up three of the
5 major tributaries for the Davidson Canyon where
6 I get my water, my well. So if any water gets
7 through, I will either be dried up on my side or
8 contaminated.

9 I went to the watershed meeting today and I
10 spoke about this where Rosemont's Mr. Pace was at.
11 After the meeting, he did hand me a business card
12 and said he would be glad to come and speak to a
13 few of our people because he has already been over
14 at the Hilton Ranch department and spoke with them.
15 So that's the concern on our side.

16 One of the other items is the dry tailings.
17 This being a new process, not been tried here in
18 the United States, as it dries, it blows, some will
19 blow away. In my speaking to several people over
20 in Green Valley, I'm told some people have gotten
21 lupus, in which a doctor had informed them this is
22 getting to be a hot spot for it. What's going to
23 happen when -- I called the Lupus Foundation and
24 they don't have a study on it, but they think that
25 it's necessary to start one for Green Valley.

1 What's going to happen when these dry
2 tailings are blowing around? What are we going to
3 get then?

4 You know, we need to stop and think about
5 our water, it's very important.

6 I also want to make you aware of it's not
7 just Rosemont. We also have Arizona Cal Portland,
8 which is going to be both sides of the Davidson
9 Canyon within three miles of the Rosemont. There's
10 four mines going in there, folks, off of
11 Highway 83. The other ones are on state land.
12 Thank you.

13 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Charlotte.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. LEWIN: Valerie Smith.

16 MS. SMITH: Hi, my name's Valerie
17 Smith. I am a resident of Vail. I'm not a
18 biologist or a geologist or anything like that, and
19 I don't really have a lot of -- I don't have
20 anything really even prepared. My whole reason for
21 being here is emotional predominantly because the
22 whole thought -- the first time I drove down that
23 road, I fell in love with that area. It's
24 gorgeous. I love going out there. I can't figure
25 out why, why you guys want to put it there, of all

1 places. I mean, there's all kinds of endangered
2 species around there. The place is gorgeous.

3 I kind of waffle sometimes on whether or
4 not how exactly I feel. I mean, half the time it's
5 gut wrenching despair and the other half of the
6 time I'm pissed off enough to want to punch a
7 Buick.

8 The only -- actually, the only thing that I
9 really studied to try to, you know, inform myself a
10 little bit, it was a -- was a study done on avian
11 consumption and use of contaminated water sources,
12 toxicological and susceptibility mostly to birds,
13 wildflower. The study was done at the Institute of
14 Environmental Health at Texas Tech University.

15 And basically it went -- it was a very
16 comprehensive study that they did with the mallard
17 ducks and basically when you read the whole thing,
18 it kills them. And it's a painful death. And it's
19 not just the ducks. I mean, think of all -- you
20 know, I don't mind when adults do things to other
21 adults that harm other adults, but when you harm an
22 animal or a child, then you really piss me off, you
23 know.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. SMITH: The animals, they can't

1 speak for themselves, you know, so all -- all that
2 whole thing about no-action, yeah, the only thing
3 that I can really say or do is just request to
4 those mine people go away.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Valerie. Nancy
7 Freeman.

8 MS. FREEMAN: Normally, I speak as a
9 representative of an environmental group, but
10 tonight I am speaking as a private citizen, and the
11 reason I am is I have spent four years of my life
12 in -- a very intense and stressful four years of my
13 life getting a local mining company to clean up
14 their mining slurry out of my water supply, and it
15 was not an easy task, and I would not want anyone
16 else to go through what I went through those four
17 years.

18 The -- but in the meantime, I became an
19 expert on the contamination of mining in the
20 environment because it was in my own home. And I
21 am sure that Jamie Sturgess will agree that
22 protecting the environment with mining operations
23 is not easy.

24 When he was at Cypress, four of their five
25 operations in Arizona came under federal violations

1 from the Environmental Protection Agency, including
2 our local Cypress Sahuarita Mine, where they ran
3 the moly roasters without the environmental
4 equipment, always in the middle of the night, of
5 course. And there was a fine paid some eight years
6 later on that violation.

7 Actually, every major mine in Arizona has
8 violated the EPA federal standards at one time or
9 another.

10 Actually, I want to make one thing clear,
11 and that is, this process is for mining on public
12 lands. There is no process, there's no
13 requirements except EPA water standard requirements
14 for mining on private lands. And everyone needs to
15 understand that.

16 And, further, not only the Safford mine is
17 -- has come into action, it's going to be a huge
18 mine, Mineral Park by Kingman is opening up.
19 Bisbee, they're able to mine the waste at Bisbee
20 and produce more copper, and they're probably going
21 to expand that mine.

22 And I think it's really strange that only
23 the copper mining business is the only one that is
24 not going to outsource to foreign countries.

25 So the Coronado National Forest --

1 according to their website, the Santa Ritas were
2 created for urban recreation. It says after the
3 turn of the century, attention turned to
4 southeastern Arizona Sky Islands for yet another
5 resource, recreation. We ask that this forest be
6 preserved for the purpose it was created.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. LEWIN: Bruce Kerrigan.

9 MR. KERRIGAN: Hi, my name's Bruce
10 Kerrigan. I've been in Arizona 61 years. I didn't
11 come from Minnesota, I didn't come from New York.
12 I was born and raised right here. I made my whole
13 life off of mining. It's been a good industry for
14 an awful lot of people. The United States has
15 become a nation of importers. If you don't believe
16 me, go out there and buy a gallon of gas.

17 If we don't do something here to help
18 ourselves, it's just going to get worse. And I've
19 said it before, I'll say it again, if we can mine
20 it, manufacture it, or grow it in the United
21 States, we need to do it. If not, we'll end up at
22 the mercy of third rate countries, a bunch of
23 terrorists, and we've got no one to blame but
24 ourselves.

25 You know, we don't drill for oil in North

1 Dakota, we don't mine uranium in northern Arizona,
2 so we can't -- we can't use the oil, we can't use
3 the nuclear power, and now we're going to import
4 copper. I think -- I understand what you folks are
5 saying; I've been here my whole life. I know the
6 Santa Ritas, but I think we have issues here that
7 are far more reaching than this attitude of not in
8 my back yard. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. LEWIN: Jason Smith.

11 MR. SMITH: Hi, I'm Jason Smith.

12 Anyone know what tomorrow is? It's Canada Day.
13 Happy Canada Day, everybody. Everyone's -- a lot
14 of people have sort of said what I wanted to say
15 today so I wrote a lot down, but I think I'm just
16 going to shoot from the hip, as they say.

17 It was only a few, well, a handful of
18 decades ago that National Guard troops were on the
19 border of Arizona and California disputing and
20 ready to fight over our limited water supply. It
21 was really a short time ago. You can read about it
22 in Marc Reisner's book called Cadillac Desert. I
23 highly recommend it if you live in the southwest.

24 There's a mysterious labyrinth of ocean
25 underneath our soil here, we call it an aquifer,

1 but no one's really studied it. No one knows where
2 it goes, no one knows how it's all interconnected.
3 So when we talk about pumping water from an area
4 30 miles south of here, we have no idea how it
5 affects our water here in Tucson, we have no idea
6 how it affects water within this whole southwest
7 interconnected ocean that's underneath our soil.

8 Some of the earliest predictions for water
9 being gone from our aquifers is pretty stunning,
10 and no one really wants to talk about it. But some
11 of those early predictions are seven years from
12 now, 2014.

13 Our back-up source of water is the Colorado
14 River. How many states rely on the Colorado River?
15 Seven states. Can anyone name them? Yeah,
16 California, Nevada, Wyoming, New Mexico, Idaho, and
17 the very bottom of the list is little Arizona.
18 We're kind of right at the very bottom as far as
19 Tucson goes. And Vail and Sahuarita, I mean,
20 they're way down on the list.

21 So we've got a mine coming in. You know,
22 the last speaker talked about third world people
23 and terrorists threatening our water supply is the
24 most asinine, idiotic thing a person can do and
25 we've got --

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. SMITH: And, you know, we're
3 fascinated right now by our exploration for water
4 on Mars. Hey, there's water here. We're here
5 because of it. What are we doing? So I'm
6 absolutely against this mine, and I'm absolutely
7 for protecting water. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. LEWIN: Emmet Cleary.

10 MR. CLEARY: I've been in the mining
11 business for over 30 years and I've been part of
12 that -- a big part of that has been an
13 environmental journey. I was born and raised in
14 Butte, Montana, grew up next to a mine, a very
15 large mine, at a time when miners were very
16 irresponsible, you know, one of the major Superfund
17 sites of the country.

18 When we lost our jobs because they
19 nationalized our mine in Chile and our company went
20 away, I sort of took an attitude about foreign
21 mining and I still have that attitude.

22 But also I went from there to the coal
23 mines in Wyoming and I saw the reclamation that was
24 going on, and it was a major difference between
25 that and what was going on in Butte. And I saw how

1 they took care of the environment as they mined and
2 they cleaned it up.

3 From there I went to a place called
4 Thompson Creek, which is in probably one of the
5 most pristine areas in America, if anybody's ever
6 been up in that part of Idaho, the Salmon River
7 Valley. And I had the opportunity to work for a
8 mine that has won several environmental awards for
9 the responsibility that they show in mining.

10 And as I've been in the management of
11 mining, I've been in meeting after meeting with the
12 Forest Service, with the ADEQ, with the
13 environmental groups talking about the cooperative
14 effort of mining nowadays.

15 The mining industry is very responsible.
16 It doesn't have a choice, it has to be. We spend a
17 lot of money every year, we spend a lot of money in
18 every mine doing things environmentally that went
19 into people's pockets 50 years ago. And that's
20 just -- that's the journey that I've seen, and
21 that's what I've seen mining do. Thanks.

22 MS. LEWIN: Thank you. We have one of
23 our favorite county supervisors up to speak next,
24 and, after that, would Bill Wright, Rick Michod,
25 JoAnn Hinchliffe, and Glen Wyman come up, please?

1 MR. CARROLL: Thank you. I don't
2 think I'm everybody's favorite, I'm certainly not a
3 favorite of anybody who'd like to make the Santa
4 Rita Mountains dry, hot, and flat.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. CARROLL: I'm certainly not the
7 favorite of those who would like to pocket, at our
8 expense, giant profits and leave us with no water,
9 but environmental clean-up for the next generation
10 and the generation after that to deal with.

11 I just want to say at the end of this
12 process that I continue, as I mentioned, wondering
13 what will the Forest Service do, but I'm hoping
14 that they've listened to the citizens that have
15 come out time and time again and spoke from their
16 heart, not from some greed, but from their heart,
17 not from some corporate talking points list, not
18 from some company line that has been fed to them
19 time and time again at what they should say and how
20 they should say it at these types of hearings, and
21 lastly, I've never been fooled by the type of
22 people that would actually round up the
23 economically vulnerable of our community, tell them
24 what to say, and bus them to meetings like this.
25 That was despicable.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. CARROLL: So I stand with the
3 people in this audience who are smiling at my
4 comments, who are saying this is how we feel, not
5 with those that are coming down and telling us that
6 the terrorists are going to win if we don't allow
7 this mine in southern Arizona.

8 Another -- another failed attempt at
9 appealing to our -- it's like the person at the
10 last meeting down in Sahuarita who said where are
11 Iraq and Afghanistani veterans going to work when
12 they come back from the war? Well, certainly not
13 in the near future at any mine in the Santa Ritas,
14 I hope.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. CARROLL: And I guess the last
17 thing I'd like to say is just a great big thank you
18 for all the people that took time out of their
19 lives to come and let the Forest Service how we
20 feel -- know how we feel about the Japanese and
21 Canadian companies that are coming out here to take
22 our natural resources and export them to some of
23 these growing areas of our globe that are having a
24 new middle class, God love them, and I'm happy for
25 them. But, please, leave our natural resources

1 intact and leave the Santa Ritas as they are.
2 They're holy places, they're divine, and they need
3 to be protected and they need to be worshipped, not
4 destroyed and put asunder.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. LEWIN: Bill Wright.

7 MR. WRIGHT: My name is Bill Wright.
8 I've been with the mining industry since the late
9 '60s, and I think you people really need to take
10 another look at Rosemont and their plan. They're
11 starting with a clean slate, with state-of-the-art
12 technology, with the latest and greatest equipment.
13 You're not going to see what went on in Butte,
14 Montana, or some of these other mines. You're
15 going to see a well-run, environmentally friendly
16 operation.

17 The water problem is a problem, but
18 Rosemont seems to have it under control. You can
19 get 'er done. American needs copper, Arizona needs
20 the income, Tucson and the area needs the jobs, and
21 the tax base. Thank you very much.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. LEWIN: Thank you. Rick Michod.

24 MR. MICHOD: Hi, I'm Rick Michod and
25 I've lived in the Empire Mountains for 30 years. I

1 first moved here 30 years ago, and I was attracted
2 by the natural beauty of the area and the
3 possibility of living in nature while at the same
4 time pursuing my livelihood. I built my home
5 there, I raised my family there, two daughters, and
6 I still live there and I love the area deeply.

7 And I have three points I want to make.
8 There are so many things to say about the mines. I
9 want to talk about tourism, reclamation, and water
10 runoff. Augusta Copper is fond of telling us of
11 the economic benefits of their mine. A rosy report
12 that they have on their website doesn't mention the
13 issue of tourism into the area.

14 And so let's talk about the economic
15 effects of the Rosemont Mine on tourism and
16 especially on the communities in the area, which
17 include Patagonia, Sonoita, Elgin, and the Santa
18 Rita Mountain people. Bed and breakfasts are
19 flourishing, the arts are flourishing, there's wine
20 growing going on in the area, all amid ranching
21 traditions of some 200 years.

22 The portal into this area says: Where
23 cowboy traditions thrive among high desert
24 vineyards and a blossoming arts community. Can we
25 change that to where cowboy traditions thrive among

1 high desert vineyards among a gaping open pit mine?
2 I think not.

3 What is the loss if these communities, now
4 so unique in their own ways, become company towns,
5 driven not by an eclectic mix of creative people,
6 but by the bland motive of extortion of mineral
7 materials from the earth? Can anyone calculate
8 that loss? I don't think so.

9 The potential for ecological tourism in
10 this area is huge. Ecotourism is becoming an
11 increasing viable component of rural economies and
12 is a -- and it is a critical part of the
13 southeastern Arizona economy.

14 The world is curious about this area. It's
15 already famous as a birding area and birders from
16 all around the world come there and, of course,
17 there's hiking and camping. So how do these
18 tourists get into this area? They come down
19 Route 83, it's the only corridor into the area.
20 Two lane, windy road, at times very narrow. Would
21 tourists want to share the road with mining trucks
22 carrying explosives, wining (sic), and ores? How
23 many dollars would be lost from this? We need a
24 study of the loss of tourism in the area.

25 I want to turn my comments now to the issue

1 of reclamation. I have 30 seconds. Augusta Copper
2 is fond of talking about reclamation. They have a
3 cooperative project with the university biologists
4 at the U of A. I'm head of the Department of
5 Ecology and nobody I know at the U of A thinks that
6 you can open a hole in the ground somehow and
7 reclaim it to its natural state.

8 Finally, my comments are about the
9 surrounding watershed areas. Those of us who live
10 in the Empire Mountains know that the water, when
11 it rains in Rosemont, the wash is flooding outside
12 our home. How will they contain the runoff from
13 the mine? Either the toxins are going to come down
14 to us or they're going to dam --

15 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Rick. Your
16 time's up.

17 MR. MICHOD: One more sentence. In
18 which case, we'll be deprived of pure water either
19 way. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. LEWIN: JoAnn Hinchliffe.

22 MS. HINCHLIFFE: My name is JoAnn
23 Hinchliffe. My husband and I moved to Corona de
24 Tucson from New York a little over two years ago.
25 Part of the attraction of Arizona in general and

1 the Tucson area in particular was the no-nonsense
2 common sense attitude the people seemed to have,
3 along with the beautiful scenery and wonderful
4 wildlife, of course.

5 We've embraced desert living. Our yard is
6 gravel and not grass, no palm trees. Most of our
7 plants are native and require little or no
8 watering. So even though we are newcomers, I think
9 we can express a valid opinion.

10 While many people have eloquently expressed
11 concerns with all of the important details, I'd
12 like to step back and take a look at the big
13 picture, look at the forest, as opposed to the
14 trees.

15 What are the basic pros and cons of the
16 Rosemont mine? There would be a negative impact on
17 traffic volume and safety on State Route 83, a
18 designated scenic highway. There would be a
19 negative impact on air quality with all the dust
20 generated by mining 24/7. There would be a
21 negative impact on ambient noise levels. There
22 would be a negative impact on tourism in the area.
23 There would be a negative impact on the quality of
24 life for the entire Tucson area, not just down
25 there. There would be a devastating impact on the

1 beauty of the Santa Ritas, with a mile wide hole
2 and piles of tailings, no matter how well
3 camouflaged they are promised to be.

4 There would be a devastating impact on
5 wildlife; the Santa Ritas are an important corridor
6 between the Sonoran Desert and the surrounding
7 areas. There would be a devastating impact on our
8 water supply. We could discuss the water issue for
9 hours and barely scratch the surface. There could
10 be a devastating impact on our water quality as
11 well if there are any noxious chemical leaks, and
12 we all know that many noxious chemicals are used in
13 the copper mining process.

14 As near as I can tell, the only plus would
15 be the 450 or so jobs that they would provide. And
16 think about this, in the entire mining history of
17 Arizona, what percentages of the promises made by
18 mining companies have been kept? How many smoking
19 holes in the ground have not been cleaned up
20 because money ran out? How much habitat has been
21 destroyed?

22 Let's use that common sense and balance the
23 pluses against the negatives. This seems to be a
24 no-brainer. We should not still even be discussing
25 this. The only sensible thing to do is to send

1 Augusta back to Canada with a hearty handshake and
2 a thanks anyway. And our elected officials need to
3 get going on updating Arizona's mining laws so we
4 don't have to go through this process again and
5 again in the future.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. LEWIN: Thank you. Our next
8 speaker is Glen Wyman and after Mr. Wyman is
9 finished, we will have a ten-minute break, but I
10 will call the next five speakers. Thank you.

11 MR. WYMAN: I'm a third generation
12 miner, been living in Arizona for a better part of
13 25 years. I work for a supplier to the mining
14 industry and, just for clarification, they're
15 American and they pay me every day in American
16 money.

17 The thing I'd like to ask all you folks
18 here is how many of you walked to this meeting? Do
19 I see a show of hands of who walked to this
20 meeting? One -- two. I think generally most of
21 you, even in Vail, would not have walked to the
22 meeting because you would have had to drive a car,
23 which requires copper.

24 The Mineral Institute figures out that
25 every baby born in the U.S. today needs over

1 300 pounds of copper in their lifetime to maintain
2 their standard of living. There's a need for
3 mining. Whether we do it overseas or whether we do
4 it here, there's a need for mining. It happens to
5 be that this project is in the Santa Ritas.

6 You folks are so sure that they're wrong,
7 you won't give a company an opportunity to show you
8 some of the new techniques that they're going to
9 use in an effort to try and work with the -- work
10 with the situation and with the environment around
11 here.

12 I, like the other gentleman that has been
13 in mining, have seen a huge change in mining over
14 the years and, in spite of the fact that some of
15 you folks who haven't been in mining won't believe
16 that, we do do things different. We do do things
17 environmentally safe, and that's what this project
18 is going to be doing.

19 As for the 256 million odd dollars that's
20 supposed to come into the economy, I guess in the
21 old days someone like Ray Carroll would be happy to
22 have it come in, but now, apparently from the
23 meeting, when my brother-in-law and my sister come
24 back from their two tours of duty from Iraq, I'll
25 send them to Ray Carroll's office and maybe he can

1 get them a job 'cause nobody else will give them a
2 job.

3 (Applause.)

4 (Boos.)

5 MS. LEWIN: Folks, folks, we need to
6 remind you to be courteous. We're going to be --
7 folks, folks, we said that we would be courteous to
8 all speakers. Thank you. Okay. Folks, folks, if
9 we want to keep on going, we've got a lot more
10 speakers; we've got 106 cards.

11 So we're going to take a ten-minute break
12 and then when we come back, we'd like to hear from
13 Mike Diehl, Stu Bengson, Jim Terlep, Jim Pepper,
14 and Clyde Ivan Phillips. Thank you.

15 (A break was taken.)

16 MS. ROZELLE: Let's get back to our
17 seats, please, so we can continue with our
18 speakers. We have our speakers queued up front.
19 All right. If you all would please settle down and
20 give your attention to our next speaker. Mike
21 Diehl.

22 MR. DIEHL: Good evening. My name is
23 Mike Diehl. I'm from Tucson, Arizona, and I'm here
24 to represent primarily my own interests, and
25 possibly, to some degree, the interests of the

1 oldest wildlife conservation community in the
2 United States. And I am, of course, speaking of
3 American hunters.

4 My purpose at this meeting is to request
5 the Rosemont Copper project to assess the impact,
6 direct and indirect, on hunting in Arizona Game and
7 Fish Department Hunt Unit Management 34A, and
8 impacts on the hunting-related economies in, but
9 not limited to, the surrounding communities of
10 Sahuarita, Green Valley, and Tucson.

11 Based on just a little review of Game and
12 Fish Department's publication, Hunt Arizona, 2008
13 Edition, Harvest and Hunt for Big and Small Game,
14 some of the direct consequences that we can
15 anticipate may affect hunting in Unit 34A, but may
16 not be limited to the following: Displacement or
17 reduction in overall numbers of huntable game,
18 including white tail deer, mule deer, javelina,
19 cotton tail rabbit, Gambel's quail, scaled quail,
20 mourning dove, and white wing dove, all of which
21 are regularly hunted in that hunt management unit.

22 Reduce hunter access in the northern part
23 of Unit 34A. I see that the Santa Rita Road is
24 designated as a secondary traffic area. I use that
25 road a lot. I sure hope some effort will be made

1 to mitigate traffic on that road.

2 Other adverse impacts to game populations
3 beyond the area affected by the footprint of the
4 site, including vehicular traffic, potential for
5 dust from mine operations, and noise effects on
6 both game populations and hunt quality in the
7 northern part of Unit 34A.

8 And, importantly, loss of revenue
9 potentially on the sale of big game permit tags.
10 Such revenue is presently the chief source of
11 funding for Arizona Game and Fish. As I understand
12 it, according to the Hunt Arizona, 2008 Edition, in
13 the years 2003 through 2007, approximately 8,000
14 deer permit tags were issued for firearms hunts
15 alone in that unit, at a cost of about \$42 per tag,
16 another 2,300 for javelina, and an unknown number
17 of archery nonpermit tags, to the total of
18 approximately 8,000 hunter person days per year
19 just for big game alone, and I can't speak to the
20 numbers of people involved in hunting quail.

21 I certainly hope that as a consequence of
22 the NEPA review process, the potential impacts of
23 this project on hunting in Unit 34A and possible
24 mitigation efforts of habitat restoration efforts
25 will be addressed. Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. ROZELLE: Stu Bengson.

3 MR. BENGSON: Good evening.

4 MS. ROZELLE: It should have been left
5 on.

6 MR. BENGSON: Is this better? My
7 name's Stu Bengson, and I reside in Tucson,
8 recently retired from the mining industry after
9 about 31 years working with the mining industry.
10 Before that, I was with the Forest Service both
11 here in Arizona, in Idaho, and Oregon.

12 Basically, I wanted to bring people kind of
13 a historical perspective on this proposed project.
14 This is not a pristine wilderness area. This area
15 has been mined for well over a hundred years. It's
16 honeycombed with small little independent historic
17 mines throughout the area.

18 Before Augusta, it was owned by Asarco.
19 Before Asarco, it was Anamax. This is a major
20 copper deposit. I'm sorry, but you can only mine
21 copper where God put the copper. If you want a
22 copper mine in Chile, that's fine too; we can
23 import the copper that we need. But you can only
24 put a copper mine where there's copper. And, I'm
25 sorry, but the Santa Ritas have copper. That's

1 what brought the miners there in the first place
2 over a hundred years ago. That's about it.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. ROZELLE: Jim Terlep.

5 MR. TERLEP: My name is Jim Terlep and
6 I'm with the Southern Arizona Hiking Club, and
7 we're now in our 50th year of hiking in southern
8 Arizona.

9 And my interest today in being here is to
10 talk about access and continued recreational access
11 to the area around the proposed mine site. And I
12 would like to know if anyone can tell me if the
13 Forest Service roads will be closed by the proposed
14 mining operation. Will any provision be made for
15 continued vehicular or nonvehicular access to the
16 impacted area? How will the public get to the land
17 around the mine from the east? Will the public be
18 able to drive or hike through the mine -- the mine
19 area controlled or the area controlled by the mine?
20 And, if so, for how long? I understand there's
21 already no trespassing signs going up in that area.
22 Will legal permanent access be provided around the
23 mine if we are unable to go through it? Thank you.

24 MS. ROZELLE: Jim Pepper.

25 MR. PEPPER: Good evening. Jim

1 Pepper, Sonoita. Three items, cumulative effects,
2 siqua time line, and scoping process results.
3 Assessment of cumulative facts requires a deep
4 analysis. Determination of these effects presents
5 challenging and iffy issues. Many NEPA documents
6 are seriously deficient in terms of this
7 requirement. And this is a concern of which the
8 courts have been increasingly attentive. We, the
9 public, expect nothing less than a comprehensive
10 assessment of the cumulative effects.

11 The geographic effect of the mine must
12 decide about the boundaries of impacted large scale
13 systems in nature, such as hydrologic and
14 groundwater basis, or human constructed, such as
15 the circulation system.

16 Just for example, to account for cumulative
17 impacts of mining in the region, the area of
18 analysis must extend at least 30 miles to include
19 the Patagonia Range and the southern Santa Rita
20 Mountains. And since the proposed mine has a
21 projected lifespan of 20 years, the analysis of
22 cumulative effects should cover the same time
23 period.

24 Second, your memorandum of understanding
25 that is, your contract, I'm talking about to the

1 Forest Service people, with the applicant, sets
2 forth a very ambitious timetable for completing the
3 NEPA process. This accelerated schedule was
4 reflected in the initial design of the scoping
5 process, three open houses and a 30-day comment
6 period, you'll recall, a process and time frame
7 which proved to be wholly inadequate for meaningful
8 public comment.

9 So why the rush? The EPA estimates there
10 are 100,000 abandoned mine sites in Arizona alone,
11 many of which are contaminated and awaiting scarce
12 public funds for clean-up. Unfortunately, the
13 applicant's submittal is a recipe for another such
14 site. So why are we rushing through this
15 environmental assessment?

16 The Forest Service should also have a
17 contract with us, the public, assuring us that you
18 will not hurry through this process, but rather be
19 deliberate and careful and take the time necessary
20 to conduct an impartial, technically sound, and
21 comprehensive assessment. We must trust you to be
22 absolutely certain that the draft Environmental
23 Impact Statement meets the highest possible
24 standards. Given the stakes, nothing less is
25 acceptable.

1 Finally, I respect -- finally, I expect
2 that you prepare a scoping summary setting forth
3 the complete list of issues and alternatives raised
4 in the scoping process and identifying those issues
5 and alternatives the Forest Service intends to
6 address in the EIS. This document should also list
7 those issues and alternatives which you rejected,
8 along with the reasons for doing so.

9 Consistent with your agency's stated
10 commitment to the fullest public participation in
11 the NEPA process and the confrontational nature of
12 the proposed project, I urge you to publish this
13 document for public review and comment and subject
14 it to public hearings. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. LEWIN: Clyde Phillips, and then
17 I'm going to call four more names just before you
18 speak, Mr. Phillips. Dr. Douglas Larson, Cynthia
19 Bower, Marshall Magruder, and Fermin Samorano.

20 MR. PHILLIPS: This is I have a dream
21 for the Rosemont area. Arizona needs this mining
22 company and they need us right now. This is a
23 dream coming true.

24 Two, the U.S. Forest Service should use the
25 dirt and may receive money that should be spent for

1 recreation centers in the area. This would be used
2 for large recreation centers and also for swimming
3 pools and something that southern Arizona does not
4 have right now.

5 No. B, the landfill could be used for
6 parks, lakes, animal shelters, camping grounds,
7 hiking areas, and playground.

8 C, the company could help plant trees while
9 they're doing this work, and they would do it.

10 No. 2, Augusta Resource, 996,000 acres --
11 or 960 acres; A, when the mine is closed, after
12 five years, all company acres would be given back
13 to the U.S. Forest Service; B, the property would
14 be cleared of all equipment, and building by the
15 copper mine; C, if the copper bed goes under the
16 Forest Service land, they should be allowed to mine
17 that copper until it runs out, but they must remove
18 everything at that time when they leave; D, all
19 tailings be covered by three feet of dirt. So that
20 would solve that problem.

21 Recommendations: All fees and taxes levied
22 on the mine for the first 20 years be used to
23 provide recreation and environmental improvements
24 in the area; B, the 3,000 miles (sic) that they're
25 talking about would be given back to the Forest

1 Service for future development.

2 In this mine, I would call it the Rosemont
3 City Copper Mine City, and here they should plant
4 the city down at the bottom of the pit and have
5 cable TV -- cable going back and forth for
6 transportation. Let's dream. The property sold
7 from this 3,000 parts of land would go to, again,
8 to develop recreation in that area. For gosh
9 sakes, let's start dreaming the next hundred years
10 and get our head out of the sand. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. ROZELLE: Dr. Douglas Larson.

13 DR. LARSON: Good evening. Let's go
14 back in the past a little bit. Remember Hughes
15 Aircraft? Remember what happened to our water?
16 They were using a solvent to clean the electronic
17 components. It seeped into our groundwater. Now,
18 why's it important to Tucson? 'Cause Tucson's
19 dependent upon groundwater. This is unlike a lot
20 of other cities that aren't dependent upon
21 groundwater; there lies the difference.

22 So what happened with the seepage that came
23 from Hughes Aircraft? It caused an increase in
24 cancer and autoimmune disease, significantly. What
25 was the response to that? We had to spend millions

1 of dollars for Superfund clean-up. Is there a
2 difference of the Hughes and what we're talking
3 about with Augusta Resources? I don't think so.

4 I'm a toxicologist. I have a doctorate in
5 toxicology, and I understand nothing about
6 hydrology, but it doesn't take, I think, a rocket
7 scientist to understand that water flows downhill
8 and what's downhill? It's our aquifers. And so,
9 as the tailings build up, as the chemicals that are
10 used to leach the copper from the minerals
11 accumulate, we have a large rain like last week,
12 where's the water going to go? It's going to go
13 down through the tailings and go down into aquifers
14 to a city that is dependent upon groundwater.
15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. LEWIN: Cynthia Bower.

18 MS. BOWER: My name is Cynthia Bower.
19 I've been a resident of Tucson for 30 years. My
20 husband and I own property approximately four miles
21 south of the proposed Rosemont Mine. I have many
22 concerns relating to the environmental impacts of
23 this project, but my comments tonight will focus on
24 two: Economic impacts to the community and the
25 disconnect between activities described in the

1 Rosemont Mine Plan of Operation and the goals of
2 Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

3 Two economic impact studies of the proposed
4 Rosemont Mine are readily available on the
5 Internet. Both point out that benefits to local
6 households, businesses, government entities would
7 be relatively insignificant given the overall size
8 of the economies affected. One study, however,
9 assesses the probable costs of the Rosemont Mine,
10 while the other neglects to address the issue of
11 costs entirely.

12 I urge anyone inclined to favor permitting
13 the project on the basis of economic considerations
14 to look closely at the Sonoran Institute's study on
15 the Save the Scenic Santa Ritas website. It
16 clearly demonstrates that substantial costs would
17 accrue due to the mining activities.

18 The study also discusses an issue that, to
19 my knowledge, has not been raised yet at a scoping
20 hearing, namely, the societal costs and the
21 environmental destruction caused by more than two
22 billion pounds of carbon dioxide per year that
23 would be released as a result of the proposed
24 project. This represents an increase of over one
25 percent in total carbon dioxide emissions for the

1 entire state of Arizona, a staggering environmental
2 impact for a single enterprise.

3 The study also raises the issue of
4 decreased revenues from outdoor recreation and
5 tourism are sustainable cornerstones that rely
6 heavily on the scenic area and that are currently
7 valued at almost three billion dollars a year.

8 The study concludes that if the proposed
9 project displaced only one percent of this
10 activity, the economic losses would be greater than
11 the entire annual payroll of the project.

12 Augusta certifies that it will support the
13 conservation plan in developing the Rosemont Mine.
14 I am familiar with the SDCP and have read the
15 Rosemont Plan of Operations and find each an
16 anathema to the other. I briefly describe some of
17 the activities that will be ongoing at Rosemont
18 Mine and you can draw your own conclusions as to
19 whether they could in any way construe to support
20 the roles of the SDCP.

21 The figures I quote come straight from
22 during times of peak mine activity. 36 24-ton
23 trucks will enter or leave the mine every hour.
24 Each day for five days a week up to 56 tons of
25 blasting agent will be used to pulverize the ore

1 body and surrounding rock. Three gargantuan
2 electric shovels will operate continuously,
3 eventually gouging a pit a mile wide, a mile long,
4 and almost 3,000 feet deep. 31 260-ton haul
5 trucks, a 200-ton transporter trailer, and an
6 unspecified number of haul trucks will shuttle
7 copper or waste rock and tailings around the mine.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. LEWIN: Marshall Magruder.

10 MR. MAGRUDER: Good evening. My name
11 is Marshall Magruder from Santa Cruz County.
12 Tonight I'd like to propose two alternatives that
13 are both viable and reasonable for consideration
14 during the NEPA process that is ongoing.

15 The first alternative, what I call
16 alternative one, would be to use CAP water only, no
17 groundwater.

18 The second alternative is a new electrical
19 plant.

20 Let's talk about each one of these. Water
21 is the most important issue in this entire process.
22 Our water is our life. Without water -- it's more
23 important than copper. And we need to protect the
24 groundwater that is now being depleted at one inch
25 a week. 48 -- four feet a year, approximately one

1 inch a week the water table is lowering in the
2 Tucson Active Management Area. That is required
3 for sustaining life. Copper is not required for
4 sustaining life.

5 Therefore, a business should be able to set
6 up a plan to buy -- plan to put in the pipes to
7 import CAP water because mines, it doesn't matter
8 whether it's CAP water or groundwater to operate
9 the mine. So the water could be procured by the
10 company to operate the mine, and, therefore, that
11 alternative should be one considered by the Forest
12 Service that I'm now recommending to be looked at
13 seriously because it does seem to be extremely
14 reasonable.

15 The second alternative involves Section 2.7
16 of their plan which discusses the electrical supply
17 for the mine. It states that adequate electricity
18 is not available. The preferred TEP approach calls
19 for turbines to be running in Nogales so that
20 Rosemont Copper can operate its mine. I don't want
21 to go through the electrical problems to get power
22 into Santa Cruz County, because I've been working
23 on that for the last nine years, but that is
24 another alternative.

25 And my alternative would be to put in a

1 natural gas line to the mine from I-10 and then put
2 in trailers which could hold the power plant. They
3 have their own power plant operating the mine, and
4 when it's over in 19 years, the trucks drive away,
5 and the power plant disappears.

6 95 percent of the power they buy from TEP
7 comes from coal-fired power and, therefore, the CO2
8 and other options need to be considered, and it's
9 cleaner if you use natural gas. Thank you very
10 much.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. ROZELLE: While our next speaker
13 is moving toward the podium, let me call four more
14 to come on down front. Henry Zappia, Paul
15 Delligatti, Jim Vaaler, and Mark Candy. Go ahead.

16 MR. SAMORANO: Hi. My name's Fermin
17 Samorano. I'm the mine manager for Rosemont Copper
18 project. I grew up in Tucson, Arizona. I received
19 my mining degree from University of Arizona, and my
20 family comes from a long line of miners, primarily
21 copper, both on my family -- I have about 13 years
22 of mining experience myself and when I saw the
23 opportunity to be part of this project, I took that
24 opportunity due to the fact of the experienced team
25 that was put together and the fact that it was a

1 new project where we could bring in modern mine
2 techniques to ensure that we protect the
3 environment.

4 I'm also, like I said, a southern Arizonan.
5 I'm an avid hunter and I know those areas very well
6 and I understand the need to protect the
7 environment.

8 Like I said, I grew up here, and I'm really
9 for the project because it will bring plenty of
10 jobs to the area, and training opportunities for
11 several people. I've seen what Tucson has
12 experienced over the last couple of years with the
13 construction industry and I have a lot of friends
14 who would really like to have an opportunity to
15 work there and a lot of people I haven't spoken to
16 in a long time have approached me. I hope we can
17 do that to open the mine.

18 So I'd like to see the project move forward
19 and hopefully we can work together to make sure
20 that we protect the environment. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you. All right.
23 Henry Zappia.

24 MR. ZAPPIA: My name is Henry Zappia.
25 I'm a native Tusconan. Mining has had a major

1 impact on this state since it was a territory.
2 Mining has provided good paying jobs, a source of
3 income to local businesses, major contributor to
4 tax bases that affect our education system, moneys
5 for public safety improvements, and the overall
6 quality of life for all of those affected. I
7 support this project.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. ROZELLE: Paul Delligatti.

10 MR. DELLIGATTI: Good evening, my name
11 is Paul Delligatti. I'm 54 years old and a native
12 of Tucson. I'm a certified specialist in poison
13 information, pharmacist, and graduate of the
14 University of Arizona, hiker, hunter, and fisherman
15 who has lived all over Arizona and enjoyed the
16 opportunities and bounties of the national forest
17 and the state trust lands throughout the wonderful
18 state.

19 My great-grandfather, George Ellsworth, was
20 editor of the Copper Era newspaper in Clifton,
21 Arizona, in the early 1900s. My grandfather, Gene
22 Ellsworth, a retired Naval officer, was a close
23 friend and supporter of Senator Barry Goldwater.
24 My father, Gino Delligatti, a first generation
25 Italian American, is a Tucson real estate broker of

1 the last four decades. Our family has seen and
2 witnessed a tremendous growth and changes in our
3 state.

4 I remember well while I was managing
5 Thrifty Pharmacy in Safford, Arizona, the miners'
6 strike of 1983 and the economic impact over the
7 industry and the region.

8 As a pharmacy owner during the late '80s
9 and early '90s in Sedona, Arizona, I watched this
10 beautiful community struggle through unprecedented
11 growth and succeed because of careful planning and
12 cooperation, helped by many entities, such as the
13 U.S. Forest Service, and the boards of supervisors
14 for Coconino and Yavapai Counties.

15 As an outdoorsman, I have enjoyed the
16 beauty of Rosemont, the Santa Ritas, and many other
17 of the areas in Arizona.

18 So, as Augusta Resources began the work
19 they needed to open the mine, I immediately became
20 interested in their plans. I have taken the
21 Rosemont Mine tour, looked at the geology of the
22 area, considered the fragile environmental and
23 local water issues, and examined new technologies
24 of mining and concurrent reclamation Augusta
25 Resource plans to use.

1 I am satisfied that Augusta Resources is
2 committed to bring -- to being a good neighbor and
3 a responsible neighbor. This project is well
4 planned and it serves as a new model for mining in
5 the future. Therefore, I believe this mine
6 operation is needed and should be approved.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you. Jim Vaaler.

9 MR. VAALER: Yeah, hello. My name's
10 Jim Vaaler. I'm from Phoenix. And people from
11 Phoenix do care what happens in southern Arizona
12 and what's being proposed is not good. I think the
13 whole state should be ashamed of what's being
14 proposed down here. And I'm just glad to be from
15 Phoenix to say that I'm opposed to it.

16 Just a few points. The only locatable
17 minerals are on patented claims and, therefore, we
18 -- we would need to have a validity examination of
19 the unpatented lands. I think that's needed.

20 Pumping scarce drawn water to operate this
21 mine is a travesty. I think it'll create a huge
22 cone of groundwater depletion in the area that
23 they're going to pump from.

24 The other problem would be where's the
25 sulfide ore going to be processed? And I'm

1 concerned about the hauling impacts that may occur
2 to the highway infrastructure. I think a no-action
3 alternative is best. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. ROZELLE: All right. The next
6 speaker is Mark Candy, and while Mark is moving to
7 the podium, I'm going to call four or five more.
8 Is Mark still here? Okay. Maybe -- it sounds like
9 he might have left.

10 Leon Punt could come on and be the next
11 speaker. Sarah Flesch, Marcus Oriclicel,
12 O-r-i-c-l-i-c-e-l, Robert Leigh, and Margo Garcia.
13 So we'll start with -- so Leon Punt's not here
14 either? Are you Sarah?

15 MS. FLESCHE: Yes.

16 MS. ROZELLE: All right. Go ahead.
17 Thank you.

18 MS. FLESCHE: Good evening. My name is
19 Sarah Lomasz Flesch. Thank you for the opportunity
20 to add my voice to the debate tonight. I've lived
21 in Arizona for seven years and I did my graduate
22 degree at the University of Arizona. I'm a member
23 of this community, but I'm also one of those mining
24 people.

25 I'm not a scientist, I was not sent here by

1 my company, and these are my talking notes, my
2 talking points; I wrote them myself.

3 Mining is a modern, respectable,
4 responsible, and sustainable industry that employs
5 local residents and gives back to the communities
6 where it does business. I work for one of Rosemont
7 Copper's competitors and, in my role, I am tasked
8 with recruiting, training, and retaining employees.
9 I do this with pride, knowing that my company and
10 others in our industry employ the most modern
11 processes possible as we do our business.

12 We are not snakes and skunks. We care
13 about our impact on and contribution to our
14 communities and society at large, and a drive up
15 scenic Highway 191 North through Morenci, the
16 largest open pit copper mine in North America,
17 where I've lived and many multi-generational
18 wildlife loving and recreationally active families
19 with children live within one mile of the pit is
20 proof that mining is compatible with the safety and
21 environmental standards and the beautiful nature
22 and wildlife of the 21st century copper state.

23 I wish Rosemont Copper and all firms
24 engaged in the exploration of and production of
25 copper the best of luck for success in this place

1 at this time. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. ROZELLE: Marcus -- Marcus
4 O-r-i-c-r-i-e-l. He left? All right. How about
5 Robert Leigh. All right. Robert. Thank you.

6 MR. LEIGH: Hi, my name's Robert
7 Leigh. I've been in the mining industry for over
8 30 years and it's kind of interesting to see what
9 I've heard from you guys all say.

10 I started in Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada. I've
11 seen mining projects all over. I have been on
12 about a five-hour tour of the mine. It is all
13 going to be state of the art. They're going to
14 start coming back and reclaiming it from year one.
15 I do represent a company that sells equipment back
16 into this.

17 This is just one of the things that I
18 really wanted to stress was the engines. All of
19 the equipment that is going to go into this is
20 going to be the standards that are set already in
21 California by 2010. Those standards are going to
22 go up again. If the mine is prepared, when it
23 comes down, we will provide the latest technology
24 that comes back.

25 I hear about all of the emissions coming

1 back out of all of this. It is coming back to the
2 particulates that come back out of here are going
3 to be, for these engines, about a tenth of what
4 they were just ten years ago. So this is a state
5 of the art. It will have reclamation. I've seen
6 these progress for the last 30 years, and I believe
7 this one can happen. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you. Margo Garcia
10 is next, and while Margo's moving to the podium,
11 Erik Flesch, Mansur Johnson, Dennis Fischer, Ted
12 Morrison, Warren Adams, come on down to the row
13 here.

14 MS. GARCIA: Good evening. I'm Margo
15 Garcia and I'm a retired professor of environmental
16 planning and a Tucson resident for 41 years.

17 The point of this whole session is on
18 scoping. What are the issues that need to be
19 addressed in the environmental impact report? And
20 I want to just address two of them. There
21 certainly is a long list, as I'm sure you've seen
22 on the posters outside. The two that I want to
23 talk about is, one is water and the second is
24 revegetation.

25 As you know, we're part of the active

1 management area that's under the department of
2 water resources, and we have a plan we've been
3 working on since 1980, which is to have a
4 sustainable yield by the year or safe yield by the
5 year 2025. The latest work that's been going on is
6 showing that we're probably not going to make that,
7 even with all of the Central Arizona Project water
8 that we're bringing in and importing.

9 And so when we begin to get an additional
10 user of groundwater such as this mine, there is the
11 issue of replenishment of that groundwater, where
12 it's going to happen, and if they're going to be
13 using Central Arizona Project, as has been
14 suggested.

15 There is also the whole question of how
16 much Colorado River water is actually going to come
17 into this area into the future. So I'm hoping
18 that, in the analysis that's done for the
19 Environmental Impact Statement, one is the goals of
20 the active management area are taken into account;
21 and, second of all, that there is a risk analysis
22 done of the problems of drought and climate change
23 and what impact that's going to have on the amount
24 of CAP water which is going to be available or
25 might be available to the mines.

1 And also, if you look at the list of the
2 hierarchy of who gets the Central Arizona Project
3 or Colorado River water when it arrives in this
4 area, industry is at the bottom of that list. So
5 it will come to the municipal people before
6 industry.

7 The second one is revegetation. I did part
8 of my life as a botanist, and we are in a desert
9 area. We've heard a lot about revegetation in
10 other areas, Idaho, Colorado, certainly in West
11 Virginia, and they all have a great deal more rain
12 than we do. And so we -- if anybody has looked at
13 or done a tour of the ground of the Green Valley
14 area and looked at the tailings there and at the
15 revegetation efforts there, it's been very
16 difficult. They've had to add organic matter,
17 they've had to add water. We're back to that water
18 again.

19 And so it's very easy to say, yes, we'll
20 revegetate, but to actually do it in a desert area,
21 with desert vegetation requires a lot more effort
22 than has been successful in many places before.

23 So, I hope that the Forest Service will do
24 a very close and analytical look at how difficult
25 it is to revegetate in the desert.

1 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. ROZELLE: All right. Erik Flesch.

4 MR. FLESCHE: Hello, my name is Erik
5 Flesch. I'm a University of Arizona trained
6 geologist. I work in the field of mineral
7 exploration for a junior company not affiliated
8 with Augusta Resources. And I'd like to speak up
9 for a couple of facts and viewpoints that have been
10 somewhat under-represented during the ongoing
11 public scoping hearings.

12 The most important of which I think is that
13 copper does not grow on trees. The geologic
14 systems that result in the deposition of copper are
15 very rare. Copper can only be found in a very few
16 number of locations around the world. And it just
17 so happens that portions of southern Arizona where
18 we live is one of them in the form of our so-called
19 porphyry copper deposits.

20 And much of what makes the beautiful
21 landscape in southeastern Arizona so beautiful is
22 the geologic story of our copper-producing porphyry
23 systems. Those systems formed at the same time as
24 the extential tectonics that created this basin and
25 range province that we live in in this part of the

1 state, and it's that story of copper, the geologic
2 story, that differentiates where we live from the
3 Grand Canyon and the rest of the Colorado Plateau
4 and the northern part of the state.

5 But not just aesthetically in terms of the
6 look of the landscape, but also culturally.

7 Porphyry copper deposits are a southern Arizona
8 home-grown commodity and a vast majority of our
9 settlers, of course, up until a generation or two
10 ago were concentrated in southern Arizona's mining
11 towns. And, as residents earned their sustenance
12 from the landscape, our copper culture developed
13 organically and influenced everything about us, our
14 technologies, our attitudes, and even our artistic
15 taste. And elements of that very copper culture's
16 character still draws people to live here in
17 southern Arizona.

18 But interestingly, a growing number of
19 people are increasingly, unfortunately, ignorant of
20 the value of copper and what it means, frankly, to
21 live close to the land. Ironically though, the
22 influx of residents means that more foothills and
23 valleys are being covered up by urban
24 infrastructure, thus reducing the inventory of
25 prospectable land.

1 New building construction is consuming
2 resources, increasing the demand for new copper
3 deposits, but simultaneously limiting the
4 conditions necessary to discover them. Basically
5 making the copper deposit a new endangered species
6 and copper's soaring market price reflects this
7 demand and scarcity.

8 But copper does have measurable value in
9 terms of the minerals they contain, and many
10 deposits, such as the Rosemont deposit, can hold
11 their own best land uses, which that creates other
12 uses for other people, such as housing or
13 recreation, wilderness sites, and farming and so
14 forth, and private landowners and representatives
15 of state and federal land do a remarkable job of
16 balancing these jobs. I'd like to commend the
17 Forest Service for striving to maintain a high
18 level of objectivity in the face of extreme
19 political pressure. Thank you very much.

20 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. ROZELLE: Mansur Johnson.

23 MR. JOHNSON: Hi, my name is Mansur
24 Johnson, M-a-n-s-u-r, Johnson. I'm someone who's
25 worked almost 15 years outdoors in Arizona on movie

1 sets. I worked on Geronimo in the Chiricahuas, I
2 worked on Quick and the Dead out in Mescal, I
3 worked on Maverick up in Lake Powell, but it wasn't
4 until I worked on Iron Eagles II on location just
5 east of I-10 or I-19 across from Green Valley that
6 I discovered one of the offshoots of mining, which
7 was arsenic poisoning.

8 The movie set people began to develop
9 symptoms of -- cold symptoms. They had sore
10 throats, they had runny noses, they had stuffy
11 noses, and it wasn't until we took a homeopathic
12 remedy called arsenic that the symptoms left.

13 I also, subsequent to that, worked in the
14 mine behind Green Valley on two films, The Postman
15 was filmed there and Tank Girl was filmed there.
16 And I can report that similar symptoms of arsenic
17 poisoning from tailings that blew around affected
18 the movie crews on those locations.

19 So what we have to look forward to in
20 Corona de Tucson when the wind is from the west is
21 arsenic poisoning; what we have to look forward to
22 in the Tucson valley when the wind is to the south
23 is arsenic poisoning; and, I'm sorry about that,
24 and I'm imagining that the result of the public
25 outcry against this mine will result in no mine.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. ROZELLE: Dennis Fischer.

3 MR. MORRISON: Hi, I'm Ted Morrison --

4 MS. ROZELLE: I'm sorry, is Dennis
5 Fischer not here?

6 MR. FISCHER: No, he's here.

7 MS. ROZELLE: Dennis is next, and
8 then, Ted, you're after Dennis.

9 MR. MORRISON: Okay, I'll wait.

10 MS. ROZELLE: So, Dennis, go ahead.

11 MR. FISCHER: Hi, my name is Dennis
12 Fischer. I'm native Tusconan. I have two degrees
13 from the University of Arizona, and I'm a very
14 concerned citizen. I'm concerned that opponents to
15 the mine are turning a blind eye on a potential for
16 good paying jobs and millions of dollars flowing
17 into the city, county, and state and federal
18 coffers.

19 I'm concerned that the public perception
20 being fostered by the opponents is a mine which
21 couldn't be further from the truth. I'm concerned
22 that the water usage issue ignores the fact that
23 the Rosemont mine will consume less than half the
24 water of traditional copper mining operations, and
25 the fact that Augusta has been purchasing water

1 since 2007 and recharging it into the Tucson Basin
2 on a voluntary basis, something no one else is
3 doing, or has done. Certainly not the pecan
4 growers who are consuming nearly six times the
5 projected mine usage for that. For what, pecans.
6 Part time? Right. Yeah, put that in your car.

7 I'm concerned that the opponents of this
8 mine are in denial. A gentleman told me the other
9 day that Rosemont Copper is deceiving the public by
10 telling them that we need Rosemont and the copper
11 it will produce. He cited a report by the
12 International Copper Study Group that forecasts a
13 slight copper surplus of between one-half to one
14 percent -- one-half of 1 percent to 2.2 percent in
15 2008 and 2009, respectively. Let's put that into
16 perspective.

17 One-half of one percent equates to one day
18 of world consumption. I wouldn't call that a
19 surplus. Why do you think copper is nearly \$4 a
20 pound? It's not because there's tons of surplus
21 sitting in the warehouses around the world.

22 The recession in this country is not going
23 to last forever and the growth in China, India, and
24 other world economies is going to continue to grow,
25 and that is going to continue the increase in the

1 demand for copper.

2 I'm sure you have seen bumper stickers,
3 "Freedom is not free", well, guess what, neither is
4 the standard of living that you've come to enjoy.
5 And the standard of living that you hope your
6 children and grandchildren are going to enjoy. If
7 you think \$4 a gallon of gas is bad, wait, if we
8 drive all the major industries overseas and have to
9 import everything.

10 We cannot sustain our standard of living
11 with golf tournaments, spring training, and
12 economic stimulus checks. What I'm not concerned
13 about is that the Forest Service will grant
14 permission for this mine to be developed and that
15 Rosemont Copper will operate a state of the art
16 environmentally responsible operation. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you. Ted
19 Morrison.

20 MR. MORRISON: Okay. It's my turn.
21 I'm Ted Morrison. I live here in Tucson and part
22 time in Sonoita. I was born back east in Morenci,
23 so I know what mines look like. This Rosemont Mine
24 is not some mom-and-pop operation. Its footprint
25 will, in my opinion, virtually obliterate that

1 lovely valley. They want to use the little
2 two-lane Highway 83 for their ore trucks and acid
3 trucks 24 hours a day. It is a scenic route.

4 They also want to use Santa Cruz Valley
5 water and CAP water for their operation. I brought
6 along some aerial photos, but you couldn't see
7 them, to compare the size of this with the Twin
8 Buttes. Now, I've been told that Twin Buttes is an
9 ancient mine, but the green is the footprint of the
10 mine and the white is the size of the tailings and
11 the dump and everything else. Can you fit this
12 little circle in there about nine times. That's
13 what I think is going to happen to that little
14 valley.

15 For the price of 20 years of development,
16 we lose this valley, the wildlife, and the natural
17 springs. There will be a huge hole and many square
18 miles of flat, uninhabitable land. You might call
19 it a landscape pinata: Once you break it, you
20 can't put it back together.

21 I don't believe the copper will be used
22 mainly for American-made products. The profits
23 certainly won't stay here. So we're left with only
24 short-term jobs, with a loss of our natural
25 resource when the dollar is very low.

1 This more resembles selling out scrap metal
2 to overseas than producing a viable product that
3 the world wants to buy. This ore body could be
4 better preserved as a strategic reserve, such as
5 the salt dumps that have oil in them. Could be.
6 At least it should wait to be exploited until
7 techniques improve beyond 19th and 20th century and
8 until moral imperative of considering what we leave
9 behind other than an industrial wasteland. Perhaps
10 the foreseeable future of a beautiful valley is our
11 best investment and can be handed down for future
12 generations. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you. Warren
15 Adams? Is Warren gone? All right. Let's -- I'm
16 going to bring up five more and then we'll take a
17 quick break. Joe Sweeney. Max Pennington. Mike
18 Pearce, Richard Walden, Nan Walden.

19 MR. SWEENEY: Joseph Sweeney. I'm a
20 candidate for Congress in CD 7, and I would like to
21 just put forward some questions that I think are
22 very pertinent to this thing.

23 First one is: What are the options and
24 alternatives to this site? And why not places like
25 Ajo, Kingman, Ruby, San Manuel, Bisbee? There's a

1 lot of opportunity in those communities for -- and
2 they'd more than welcome these investment bankers
3 that want to go after copper. Why not these
4 locations?

5 Well, that leads us to our second question.
6 Will the Augusta investors be satisfied? No. Why?
7 Why not? Their business plan has been sold to the
8 investment bankers and they're not going to be
9 satisfied with going to a lovely community like Ajo
10 and working on a business plan for Ajo or San
11 Manuel if they could crush that mother lode up
12 there and still have plenty of resource for copper.

13 Well, what I'm saying is will our Pima
14 County voters be satisfied? No. Three out of four
15 of them are not going to be satisfied. They do not
16 think this site is an appropriate area for private
17 self-interests of specifically investment bankers.
18 These investment bankers have no experience in
19 Arizona; they're here for their taste of globalism.
20 And that's -- that's the sad commentary about where
21 we're going with this -- with this issue.

22 And what I'm trying to say is politicians
23 need to represent citizen taxpayers 80 percent of
24 the time, not 20. And this is an issue of taxation
25 where our citizen taxpayers are representing

1 themselves, believe me. And that's all I have to
2 say. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. ROZELLE: Max Pennington.

5 MR. PENNINGTON: Good evening to
6 everyone. I'm Max Pennington, and I'm here this
7 evening to speak on behalf of the great state of
8 Arizona, the Grand Canyon state. I know as a
9 matter of fact that -- this is my home state. I
10 was born and raised in Bisbee, Arizona. I'm proud
11 to say that we are a copper mining state. And, as
12 a matter of fact, I love Arizona. I hope that we
13 grow.

14 I would like to see my fellow students at
15 the University of Arizona take on the role of
16 developing our country. Our economic resource is
17 gone abroad. Many young men just like myself are
18 day in, day out marching through streets of
19 Afghanistan, Iraq. These places are inconceivable
20 compared to Arizona.

21 But to Arizona, we have an economy. The
22 largest sector here in our economy, not --
23 disregarding our state and its statehood, with the
24 capital in Phoenix, is also our bases. These bases
25 are places of importance. These bases of economic

1 survival are to better us and I hope that we all
2 can conceive of this from a strategic level. This
3 is simply a stratagem and I thank you very much for
4 understanding me this evening. I appreciate you
5 all and I wish you a good night.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. ROZELLE: Thank you. Mike Pearce.

8 MR. PEARCE: Thank you. Good evening.

9 My name is Mike Pearce. I'm a water lawyer in the
10 state of Arizona, graduate of the University of
11 Arizona. I've worked all over the state working on
12 water problems, bringing water around the state,
13 moving it around. I've also become quite a expert,
14 or at least a veteran of the NEPA process. And I'd
15 like to speak a little bit about water, of course,
16 here tonight, but also about NEPA.

17 The United States Forest Service has before
18 it a very difficult task to take in so many
19 different viewpoints and try and make sense of it
20 all and use the NEPA statutes and the NEPA process
21 to make an informed decision about the fate of this
22 particular project.

23 Those of you that know a little bit about
24 water also know that the NEPA process was the
25 deliberative form of choice by the Secretary of the

1 Interior in resolving the contentious seven-state
2 negotiations over the shortage criteria in the
3 Colorado River, which culminated in December of
4 2007.

5 I don't think you could find a more
6 contentious process or a more diversity of
7 viewpoint about the outcome than you could in that
8 proceeding. It took over two years. The
9 Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
10 undertook numerous hearings just like we're having
11 tonight, heard many different viewpoints, took it
12 all under consideration, and brought it to a
13 successful conclusion.

14 I'm a little bit disappointed that there's
15 been so many negative comments directed to the
16 Forest Service, so many indictments of the process
17 that is just on the eve of its beginning. It
18 should be allowed to run its course and let the
19 Forest Service employees, people that we've hired
20 to do this job, do their job in accordance with the
21 laws of the United States of America.

22 Now, a word about water. We've heard a lot
23 about the water here and heard a lot of horror
24 stories about the water. 5,000 acre-feet of water
25 is a lot of water. I know that very well. But put

1 it in perspective. The average golf course uses
2 about 400 acre-feet of water, so we're talking
3 about a dozen golf courses. For those of you who
4 haven't noticed, we've got a lot more than a dozen
5 golf courses.

6 Agricultural uses, you could argue
7 agriculture uses anywhere from three to five
8 acre-feet a year. Alfalfa can use six to eight
9 acre-feet per acre per year, so a thousand acres of
10 alfalfa is using more water than this mine is
11 predicted to use. And for those of you who haven't
12 noticed, we've got more than a thousand acres of
13 alfalfa in this state. Nobody's pointing their
14 fingers at those that we're sucking the aquifer dry
15 and leaving our children to die in the dry.

16 We have a lot of water in this state and,
17 of course, there's a shortage. We have to manage
18 it wisely. Management is the key, and NEPA is one
19 of the better laws that we've passed to manage the
20 resource. So we welcome the opportunity to go
21 toe-to-toe on the water issues here, discuss it,
22 and get the facts, and those that would demand that
23 the Forest Service hear the facts would do well to
24 mind the facts themselves. Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. ROZELLE: All right. Richard
2 Walden.

3 MR. WALDEN: My name is Dick Walden.
4 I'm president of the Farmers Investment Company in
5 the Green Valley Pecan Company. I've lived in the
6 Santa Cruz Valley for almost 60 years, since my
7 father purchased the Continental Farm in 1948. Not
8 only does my family live and work in the center of
9 Green Valley, but we all enjoy hiking, riding, and
10 birding in our beautiful Santa Ritas and
11 sight-seeing at the many historic areas on both
12 sides of the mountains. I'm here in both my
13 corporate and personal capacity.

14 Today FICO owns approximately 7,000 acres,
15 which you can see in this left-hand photo, in the
16 Sahuarita/Green Valley area, which is farmed by
17 FICO's wonderful employees. The use of irrigation
18 water in this land began more than a thousand years
19 ago with the Hohokams. Native Americans have an
20 unequalled record of stewardship of land and water
21 in our valley.

22 We're here today to express our opposition
23 to the proposed mine, especially our concern about
24 the NEPA process so far. The proposed Rosemont
25 Mine will have dramatic and irreversible impacts;

1 impacts on our water, our wildlife, culture, and
2 archaeology.

3 Moreover, the mine may well ruin our
4 southern Arizona economy and those of you who talk
5 about an economy, it far exceeds the mine, which
6 our southern Arizona depends on tourism,
7 recreation, agriculture, housing, and the resort
8 industry. Not only will the mine affect both sides
9 of the Santa Ritas, that's the Sonoita and the
10 Santa Cruz side, but this mile and a half wide deep
11 hole, associated tailing sites, and facilities will
12 be visible from many parts of the Tucson area as
13 well.

14 We now have information that Rosemont
15 intends to explore and open additional sites in the
16 Santa Ritas, as well as the Rosemont site. The
17 NEPA process, unfortunately, is off to a bad start.
18 We want to express our disappointment and dismay
19 with the Forest Service for beginning the NEPA
20 scoping process so prematurely. The flawed notice
21 of intent, biased comments by consultants,
22 unfriendly format, and rushed timing of public
23 meetings, as well as incompleteness of the Rosemont
24 Plan of Mining Operations has seriously undermined
25 the public confidence, as demonstrated here

1 tonight.

2 The handling of the NEPA process and
3 Rosemont as a company, it has been difficult for
4 citizens, even public officials to get timely and
5 complete information in a usable format. Sadly,
6 this will lead inevitably to litigation, not only
7 under NEPA, but also under other causes of action.
8 This is why there is unprecedented and bipartisan
9 opposition to this project ranging from our two
10 southern Arizona congresspeople to our governor and
11 the elected officials across the region. Thank
12 you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. WALDEN: I'm Nan Walden, Farmers
15 Investment Company, and a resident of Sahuarita.
16 As farmers and stewards of the land in this region,
17 we know that the value of land and water are
18 intertwined and inseparable. We all can relate to
19 the fact that water is an essential item for all of
20 us to survive and we are blessed in the Santa Cruz
21 Valley with high-quality groundwater.

22 The upper Santa Cruz aquifer sustains
23 approximately 60,000 people, nearly 5,000 acres of
24 orchards, thousands of acres of ranches and other
25 farms, the existing three mines in our area, and a

1 multi-billion dollar annual tourism and housing
2 industry.

3 Rosemont is proposing to take our
4 high-quality groundwater and use it not for
5 drinking water, not for growing food, but for
6 tailings waste disposal.

7 And I would like to correct the impression
8 that Mr. Fischer left earlier. The larger part of
9 the water that we use in farming is recycled and
10 returned to the ground through the hydrological
11 cycle, it does not end up in a waste dump.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. WALDEN: Now, Rosemont says it
14 will provide a pipeline for CAP water to the Santa
15 Cruz Valley to benefit two local water companies.
16 The CAP water already belongs to the citizens of
17 the Santa Cruz Valley, the customers of those water
18 companies.

19 Also, Rosemont is not using CAP water, as
20 Mr. Magruder pointed out, for its mine processes,
21 it is using our clean groundwater. And, therefore,
22 we are all the losers.

23 To correct the record again, our groves in
24 Sahuarita receive no CAP water. Moreover, we think
25 it's important that the pipeline deal between

1 Rosemont and the community water companies should
2 be reviewed under the NEPA process as an action
3 connected to the mine.

4 Now, we favor bringing CAP water eventually
5 to our valley, but we favor it through an
6 independent consortium not tied to a mine that will
7 ultimately deplete our groundwater. A thorough
8 modelling of the impact of groundwater use of the
9 mine is required. The study should be broad enough
10 to include the impact of such potential use on all
11 area water users, including the effect on water
12 levels, the energy costs, well equipment costs,
13 water quality, the effect on the local sulfate
14 plume, and the effect on the proposed CAP recharge
15 water quality.

16 Some of you in Tucson may not know that
17 there's a sulfate plume from one of the local mines
18 that is under a close monitoring and consent decree
19 from our Department of Environmental Quality.

20 The final point I would like to make is
21 that the lifespan of the mine is totally
22 inadequate. 20 years is -- would be the first mine
23 in our area to operate for such a short time. The
24 current mines on the west side of Sahuarita are
25 50 years and counting. So the amount of water use

1 per year that is projected by this mine is woefully
2 underestimated.

3 Another important thing is that Arizona
4 groundwater code exempts -- one sentence -- the
5 mine from many of the important requirements that
6 others, like farmers and businesses, have to meet.
7 Therefore, it's all the more vital to have a
8 thorough NEPA process. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. ROZELLE: All right. I think the
11 battery is dead, Pete. So we're going to take a
12 break now, but we need to know how many speakers
13 remain. I'm on No. 64 and we had 106 cards, but
14 just looking out there, I'm not sure we still have
15 another 40 people. So if you're planning on
16 speaking, why don't you just come on down to the
17 stage and let me just have an idea of how many are
18 left.

19 (A break was taken.)

20 MS. LEWIN: And I'm going to read
21 through the names. We've had several people ask to
22 be pulled, but I'm going to go ahead and read the
23 names anyway to get the speaker queue going. So
24 the next speaker we have is Larry Kempton. Is
25 Larry here?

1 MR. KEMPTON: Yeah.

2 MS. LEWIN: Okay. And then I'm going
3 to read just four more right now. Dick Basye, Dean
4 Rogers, Larry Feldman, and Marie Morgan. Just to
5 get everybody ready.

6 MR. KEMPTON: Okay. Thank you. My
7 name is Larry Kempton. I was born in Tucson. I
8 have lived in Green Valley and I'm proud to say
9 that I work for the Farmers Investment Company. We
10 grow pecans; they're really good.

11 In addition to the water impacts, the
12 Forest Service must require independent review of
13 Rosemont to make certain that the true costs of its
14 activities as they affect landowners, businesses,
15 property values, and the scenic vistas of the Santa
16 Ritas.

17 Josef Marlow, an economist with the widely
18 respected Sonoran Institute, has already said that
19 Rosemont's initial rosy projections of its
20 contribution to the local economy are overstated
21 and flawed.

22 Let me make this clear. We at FICO are not
23 anti-mining. We are, however, in favor of a
24 thorough implementation of the NEPA process,
25 including a full evaluation of all of its impacts.

1 We already have three major mines in our
2 Santa Cruz Valley. We work constructively with
3 them on many community concerns, but this is a
4 Canadian company, financed with Japanese money,
5 proposing to sell this copper to China and then
6 leave us with the leftover environmental and
7 economic mess.

8 We know too well the sad story of Asarco.
9 Purchased by a group in Mexico, stripped of its
10 liquid assets, and forced into bankruptcy while
11 still liable for millions in environmental damages.
12 The town of Hayden may be declared an EPA Superfund
13 site. The taxpayers, you and I, will ultimately
14 foot the bill.

15 All the promises that Rosemont makes are
16 empty gestures if the mine is sold to other
17 investors or if it goes into bankruptcy.

18 We are counting on our elected officials
19 and the Forest Service to follow the letter and the
20 spirit of the National Environmental Policy Act.
21 Its primary purpose is to fully inform citizens and
22 the government of the ramifications of actions that
23 irreversibly affect our environment. Many projects
24 have been redesigned or abandoned due to a thorough
25 NEPA analysis.

1 NEPA requires that a no-action alternative,
2 and other feasible alternatives to the proposed
3 project be fully explored. We thank all our
4 elected officials, including Representatives
5 Giffords and Grijalva, Governor Napolitano, the
6 boards of supervisors for Pima and Santa Cruz
7 Counties, and our town, city, and state officials
8 for taking a unanimous stand for our environment,
9 for our lifestyle, our culture, and our history.

10 What do we really want to preserve for our
11 children and for our grandchildren? Leaders like
12 Mo Udall spent a lifetime preserving our beautiful
13 state. Let's carry on that tradition.

14 We've brought some photos, as you can see,
15 and there are some out in the hallway that we think
16 show the magnitude of the proposed Rosemont Mine.
17 Please take a look at them at your leisure. You
18 can see the current proposal for the mine site and
19 its facilities is twice the size of the Rancho
20 Sahuarita development. Rosemont officials have
21 stated publicly that they plan to explore other ore
22 bodies in the Santa Ritas. What will be left of
23 our mountains? Thank you.

24 MS. LEWIN: Dick Basye.

25 MR. BASYE: Dick Basye. I was born

1 here in Tucson. And I know a little history about
2 mining here just from being in Tucson.

3 First of all, I'd like to say this copper
4 is something that we can hold in reserve like
5 somebody else said, like the strategic oil reserve.
6 I mean, if it's not taken out today, it's still
7 there for us in the future, so we don't have to
8 worry about that part of it. And maybe we'll need
9 it in the future.

10 Also, I worry about the fact that Asarco
11 took bankruptcy back there. Declares it'll do a
12 lot of environmental protection and declares
13 bankruptcy. For some reason do all those promises
14 go out the window?

15 Now I'd like to go back to what I remember
16 about the Green Valley when they set up that mine
17 down there. I can remember quite well because
18 people were concerned way back then about that mine
19 coming to Pima County and they said it was to be
20 small. And see if there's any recollection to
21 what's now.

22 This was a small, insignificant operation
23 that would have no smelter and would last for
24 20 years. That's what they told us. Well, what
25 did we get? Well, there's no smelter, but they

1 didn't tell us they were going to use
2 30,000 acre-feet of water every year and then add
3 sulfuric acid into it and turn it into a toxic soup
4 that will be poisonous for a thousand years at
5 least. They didn't tell us they were going to dig
6 a hole a mile deep, or whatever it is there, and
7 put up about 18 miles of a 30- or 40-story high
8 tailing mountain that's there by Green Valley.
9 This terraced mountain is so artificial it offends
10 me every time I drive by it, and they didn't tell
11 us, of course, that it was going to last for, what,
12 50 years and going.

13 I assume with this mine, if they can find
14 any more copper in the future, that mine might
15 extend from Vail all the way to Sonoita, you know,
16 what's going to stop them? So the thing that still
17 bothers me is that I heard that the water they have
18 already recharged is 30,000 acre-feet down in
19 Marana, which doesn't do any good back up in Green
20 Valley and maybe because of that pipe thing you
21 heard about earlier, well, it's a hundred dollars
22 an acre-foot that Tucson pays for that water. So
23 that's \$3 million it would have invested in water
24 down there.

25 I understand they built huge wells up there

1 in Sahuarita area. Do they spend that kind of
2 money without an assurance that they're going to
3 get the mine? I hope there's no back room deal, no
4 wink and a nod that says we're going to do this and
5 we're just going to placate the public to make them
6 feel good, let them vent, and we're going to go
7 about what we want to do.

8 I would just ask them, I remember having to
9 learn the Gettysburg Address years ago and I don't
10 think Abraham Lincoln concluded that address by
11 saying this a nation of, by, and for the rich and
12 well connected. I think he said it was of, by, and
13 for the people. Thanks.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. LEWIN: Thank you. Dean Rogers.
16 Dean Rogers is not here? Larry Feldmann?

17 MR. FELDMANN: Hi, folks, my name's
18 Larry -- thank you. I'll hold it. My name's Larry
19 Feldmann. My family moved into the Sonoita area in
20 like -- my family moved into the Sonoita area in
21 1948. I ran all over those hills where the mine is
22 at. We joined some of the old Thurber Ranch that
23 is now Rosemont Ranch. And where I built my
24 retirement home on the family property, I'm
25 probably going to see the top benches of the mine.

1 But I have to say that I feel I have to
2 approve of the mine. I think that for a variety of
3 reasons. For one, I'm an American first. Copper's
4 a strategic resource and America needs to produce
5 it. Let's say America used to produce 75 percent
6 of the world output, Arizona half of that. And
7 these figures probably varied. I'd love to be
8 corrected on it. Now, we're a net importer. And
9 I'm not really comfortable with that.

10 We said the same thing on oil. Look at us
11 all now. Does everyone understand the oil
12 situation? And here we're going to do the same
13 thing with copper. I really don't see us going
14 there at all. I think America needs to be as
15 resource independent as possible. Over \$2 billion
16 reduction in the trade balance deficit would be a
17 bright spot, maybe a small one, but it would be a
18 bright spot.

19 The boost to the local economy -- my two
20 brothers still live on the property and the
21 youngest one said, "Dang, I might get a job there.
22 That would be great to only go three four miles
23 down the road and then have a job, a good paying
24 job."

25 The small footprint of the mine is what

1 intrigues me too. I've worked at the Sierrita Mine
2 for 18 years and at other mines and I'm familiar
3 with some of the water that's used there, and it's
4 going to be, with the dry tailings, they're
5 actually 16 percent moisture content, I believe,
6 compared to the slurry method that was used at the
7 Sierrita.

8 The water use in this thing is probably 20
9 to 25 percent of what FICO uses, probably 20
10 percent of Sahuarita and, you know what gets me is
11 that all the -- you guys are sailing boats around
12 over there in Sahuarita on that lake. And you've
13 got all the golf courses out there and I didn't
14 know the figures on the golf course until one of
15 the previous gentlemen spoke of it. And if
16 Rosemont's offering to build a nineteen -- got it.
17 Thank you so much, folks.

18 MS. LEWIN: Thank you. Our next
19 speaker is Marie Morgan. Is Marie here? Paul
20 Green. And we're going to need each speaker to
21 state their name in that microphone for the
22 recording that we have going on. Thank you.

23 MR. GREEN: My name's Paul Green. I'm
24 executive director of Tucson Audubon. We've been
25 protecting natural areas in the region since 1949

1 and I was not born in New York.

2 Tucson Audubon is a member of the coalition
3 for Sonora Desert protection, and I'm not going to
4 talk about all of those recommendations from the
5 coalition, so I won't be talking about the effects
6 of the Rosemont Mine on water supply for people, on
7 the Pima County's conservation land system, on the
8 special landscape elements that it's our priority
9 to conserve, on the plant and animal species at
10 risk as a result of the mine, water resources for
11 wildlife, continued existing of riparian areas,
12 wildlife shrinkages, the need for up-front
13 mitigation funding, the need for up-front -- or the
14 need to involve Pima County in the review process.
15 All of those points will be brought to the Forest
16 Service by the coalition.

17 However, as a representative of the
18 conservation community, I thought I'd talk about
19 economics, and these comments not about mining in
20 general as some have portrayed them, they're about
21 the Rosemont project.

22 Piece by piece we see the destruction of
23 what makes the Santa Cruz and the Catalinas
24 special. If the Rosemont Mine goes ahead, we'll
25 see devastation of 4,400 acres of scenic beauty.

1 And this is -- there's a big difference between one
2 or two small mines in the region and a mile wide
3 pit as has been portrayed.

4 So here's some thoughts about the
5 economics. The recent study in 2007 on the effects
6 of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan in our
7 communities calculated that the estimated increases
8 in property values and property tax revenues
9 associated with proximity to healthy riparian
10 corridors in Pima County, the property premiums are
11 estimated to be at a region of \$250 million, and
12 generated up to an estimated two and a half million
13 dollars each year in incremental property tax
14 revenues. So degrading riparian areas of the
15 proposed mine will reduce that income in
16 perpetuity.

17 Second, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
18 study in 2006 revealed 1.5 million visitors a day
19 from outside our state, with a total of more than
20 \$800 million in direct spending on watchable
21 wildlife. That creates 15,000 jobs and nearly
22 \$430 million in total household income and
23 \$57 million in state taxes.

24 The Sonoran Institute study also thinks
25 that the mine will result in a loss of \$2.9 billion

1 each year. So Tucson Audubon does not support the
2 mine and we reckon that the no-action option makes
3 the most sense. Thank you.

4 MS. LEWIN: Thank you. Ed Konrath.

5 MR. KONRATH: Good evening, those of
6 you still here. My name's Ed Konrath and I'm
7 probably one of the closest neighbors to the
8 northeast of the property across on the other side
9 of Sonora Highway, south of Hilton Ranch, and I
10 think the study ought to include a different
11 pricing model for the mine.

12 Certainly they have always pitched that the
13 only way to do this mine is by open pit with all
14 the overburden and salvage or tailings or whatever
15 waste they want to call it being dumped on all the
16 Forest Service lands to, I guess, Jamie Sturgess
17 told us on Saturday or Sunday, when we had a tour
18 of the place, it was going to be like 600 feet
19 higher than the land right close to the Sonoita
20 Highway which is, that's like a 60-story building,
21 even though it's on some three-to-one slope, and on
22 the northern end it was somewhere else. It was
23 going to be like a thousand feet higher, and I
24 could be wrong and I'll stand corrected in the
25 study, I'm sure.

1 But the bottom line is that is totally
2 covering the whole watershed of Barrel Canyon,
3 which totally dumps out on the east side of Sonoita
4 Highway joining Davidson Canyon wash right at the
5 entrance to my property.

6 Anyway, a pricing model that would be
7 considered probably beneficial to them would be
8 something that did underground mining with reusing
9 the tailings back in the mine to keep it from
10 collapsing like the West Virginia mine did.
11 Something different would go along with the fact
12 that, in their study, they only used \$1.50 copper,
13 which I gather now copper's worth three, four
14 dollars.

15 That would benefit us all by they would get
16 their minerals when they wanted them and they would
17 protect our visual impact on the Sonoita Highway.
18 They would probably reduce everything else that's
19 going on it. Without that kind of consideration, I
20 would have to say no-action would be my favorite.
21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. LEWIN: Thank you. Marjie Baker.

24 MS. BAKER: My name is Marjie Baker,
25 and I'm a realtor and I live in Tucson. My concern

1 is with the economic environment as well as all the
2 other concerns that have been voiced tonight. I'm
3 very lucky that when we looked at property at mile
4 marker 52 on 83 on a hilltop lot on the west side,
5 we did not buy that property 12 years ago.

6 What has Augusta done to plan for and to
7 guarantee mitigation of damage to residential
8 properties which will be affected by the mine in
9 Tucson, Green Valley, Sonoita, Patagonia, Corona de
10 Tucson, Vail, surrounding areas? There could be
11 drastic effects on property values in all areas, in
12 all regions affected by the mine's activities
13 involving our water, air, soil, and roads, for
14 example.

15 What scoping studies have been done about
16 property values? Have the realtor associations
17 been involved in any studies in Tucson, Green
18 Valley, Sonoita, or Patagonia or Corona de Tucson?
19 And I would like to know how and when will the
20 public be informed of the answers to these
21 questions?

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. LEWIN: Thank you. Tony Eiker?
24 Is Tony here? Morris Farr? Carol Mack? Don
25 Steuter? Please state your name. Thanks.

1 MR. STEUTER: Yeah, my name is Don
2 Steuter. I'm the conservation chair for the Grand
3 Canyon chapter of the Sierra Club for those of you
4 who are still awake and still with us here. I want
5 to thank the Forest Service for holding these
6 additional scoping meetings so that everyone
7 involved who wants to make comments can do so. We
8 have looked at the proposed mining Plan of
9 Operations and we have a few comments regarding
10 them.

11 The first one that leaps out at us is the
12 validity of the mining claims that Rosemont claims
13 that they have, that Augusta claims that they have.
14 As some of you probably know, the 1872 mining law
15 basically allows people to file claims on public
16 lands and it considers that claim to be valid if
17 there is a valuable mineral deposit on that mining
18 claim. And there's quite a bit of discussion as to
19 what really constitutes a valid mineral deposit.

20 But the bottom line is that, in this case,
21 Augusta has filed lots of claims on Coronado
22 National Forest lands and is planning to put mining
23 waste on these lands so obviously if you're going
24 to put waste on Forest Service lands, there is not
25 a valuable mineral deposit there. That is

1 something that we wish that the Forest Service
2 would carefully talk about and discuss in their
3 draft Environmental Impact Statement.

4 And many other things obviously should be
5 talked about. There is wildlife issues. It's near
6 an urban area. There are sensitive areas that are
7 just downstream that need to be protected. All
8 that needs to be carefully talked about at length
9 in the draft EIS.

10 A few other things -- one thing I want to
11 just mention real quick. I did have a chance over
12 the weekend to see the wonderful animated cartoon
13 show that maybe some of you saw it called Wall-E,
14 where this little robot is left behind when
15 civilization departs planet earth, which it has
16 hopelessly polluted and wasted and left behind this
17 little crew of robots to clean up the mess that
18 mankind has left behind. And all of the robots are
19 little trash compactors. All the robots have
20 perished except for the last one who's obviously up
21 against a very impossible and formidable task to
22 clean up planet earth so that mankind can come back
23 and recolonize the planet.

24 And the parallels between large scale
25 mining and this poor little robot trying to clean

1 up the mess is just too tempting. But perhaps in
2 this case to clean up this mess we should simply
3 not create it to begin with. Thank you.

4 MS. LEWIN: Thank you. Rick Hannaman?
5 Rick Hannaman? Steve Morningthunder.

6 MR. MORNINGTHUNDER: My name is Steve
7 Morningthunder and I wish my voice could thunder
8 like the morning, but I only get about 30 percent
9 of what I want to say across. Watch out if I ever
10 get to 80.

11 Well, how's it feel to be in the Nigerian
12 Delta? They have a big corporation come in, take
13 everything away from them, and what do they get in
14 return? Squat. That's about what we get with the
15 mines around here. The Phelps Dodge mine, Twin
16 Buttes has polluted my water, taken away two wells,
17 encroached on Farmers Investment Company, and it
18 violates the permitting law precisely in the
19 following phrase: The mine pit should create a
20 passive containment that is sufficient to capture
21 the pollutants discharged and that is
22 hydrologically isolated to the extent that it does
23 not allow pollutant migration from the capture
24 zone.

25 The Phelps Dodge mine is a thousand feet

1 below the water table level so naturally whenever
2 it rains, it pollutes the water.

3 Now, the Rosemont mine is planned also to
4 be under the local water table, which means it will
5 undergo the same phenomena. The question is, are
6 we ever going to clean up these mines? There's a
7 lot of jobs that could be gotten there. There's no
8 hurry on the mine.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. MORNINGTHUNDER: We don't need to
11 have a fifth mine in this valley with any hurry.

12 What we really need to do is to look at the
13 sustainability of the valley and overshoot to
14 something that this valley, like most of the world
15 has, is deeply involved in.

16 We have a hundred years supply of water
17 here they say. Now, what that means is that we're
18 going to run out after 100 years. We're going to
19 keep increasing the aquifer for a hundred years,
20 our use of the water for a hundred years, and then
21 all of a sudden we're going to run out on the last
22 day. It doesn't work that way. You run out about
23 halfway, you start running out when you're about
24 halfway there, which means we've got about another
25 20 years before that supply runs out.

1 Now, what most people say we should get rid
2 of agricultural if we use any more water. Well,
3 that violates the first commandment of Howard Odom,
4 which is thou shalt not waste potential energy.

5 The Tucson aquifer area, well, they say
6 they're putting water in the Tucson aquifer area.
7 I say why don't they just put it in the north of
8 the Grand Canyon, then they're putting it in the
9 Arizona aquifer, why not? Now, Rosemont violates
10 -- I don't have time to get into that. I can see
11 that coming.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. LEWIN: Thank you. Clyde
14 Phillips? Clyde Phillips? Sarah Barchas.

15 MS. BARCHAS: My name is Sarah
16 Barchas. I'm an adjoining rancher on Highway 83,
17 with Forest Service grazing lease directly adjacent
18 to Rosemont. I have confidence that the Forest
19 Service can and will make their decisions with
20 fairness, perspective, wisdom, and conscience as
21 the ultimate stewards of the land.

22 We're here to consider impacts and we need
23 to consider key motive impacts and chain link
24 impacts over time, direct and indirect. There are
25 many gradations of adverse impact, inevitable and

1 clearly significant impacts, probable or likely
2 impacts, possible impacts, and unknown impacts.
3 All of these can eventually and potentially be
4 significant impacts.

5 The only way to fully avoid adverse
6 significant impacts and have no impact is the
7 alternative of no-action, no use of public lands
8 for dumping of waste products and tailings.

9 Very important inevitable cumulative chain
10 link impact is with water. The quantity with
11 depletion and lowering of water table and all the
12 existing wells that could be directly or indirectly
13 affected should be cataloged. Contamination chain
14 link from Barrel Canyon dumping to Davidson Canyon
15 to Cienega Creek to Pantano to Rillito. Clearly
16 the Tucson watershed is not a rural consideration,
17 it's a metropolitan consideration as well.

18 Health and safety impacts from explosions,
19 excavations, noise, lighting, and tons of dust with
20 particulates, many with contaminants carried by
21 wind unknown numbers of miles affecting the
22 astronomical skies with our world class
23 observatories, affecting -- impacts on wildlife
24 behavior and breeding and ability to survive there
25 or threatened species, affecting possibility of

1 health of humans with increase in respiratory
2 problems, asthma, allergies, emphysema, valley
3 fever, and many more possibilities, valley fever
4 with spores that are stirred up.

5 Vibrations that can -- seismic vibrations
6 from the explosions that can damage structurally
7 the historic buildings on La Cienegas, and what
8 about the possibility of Kartchner Caverns being
9 affected?

10 The NEPA process is not only an obligation
11 to follow process, it's an opportunity for the
12 Forest Service to recognize and act in its foremost
13 mission, its noblest mission, to be the true
14 stewards of the land, and the NEPA act in itself
15 can guide them to fulfill the responsibilities of
16 each generation as trustee of the environment for
17 succeeding generations.

18 You can do that. You, the Forest Service,
19 can be a shining example to Arizona, to other
20 Forest Service systems, and to the United States by
21 making your decision based on being the true
22 stewards of the land. Thank you.

23 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Sarah.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. LEWIN: Georgette Valle.

1 MS. VALLE: Well, thank you --

2 MS. LEWIN: Can you state your name,
3 please?

4 MS. VALLE: Thank you very much. My
5 name is Georgette Valle and I'm from Green Valley.
6 And thank you very much for staying. We came at
7 the right time and I'm No. 84. I'd like to just
8 say that so many of you have said what I'd like to
9 say, so I'm going to comment on a few things here
10 tonight.

11 Aside from the pollution of the land, air,
12 and water of the Santa Rita Mountains, the state of
13 Arizona is not equipped to have a federal agency
14 come into the state to establish a copper mining
15 operation. We need state hydrology studies from
16 our own water resource department. We should also
17 have immediate statistics as to the depth of the
18 aquifer and the amounts of water that is in the
19 aquifer right now. The water resource department
20 needs more state funds to help us be better
21 informed. Even the Arizona Chamber of Commerce
22 thinks that this is true, and that we should -- and
23 that they should have more funds.

24 If I am elected -- I am a candidate for the
25 open Senate seat in District 30 -- and if I am

1 elected, this will be a priority of mine.

2 The public that I doorbell is very much
3 against the Rosemont Mine. They shake their heads
4 and they shake their fingers and they stamp their
5 feet and they say no.

6 Here I would like to say if there are any
7 people left to the mining industry, I can
8 understand that the mining industry has more
9 environmental credentials today, and they perhaps
10 do it, because, for example, I'm a former
11 legislator from the state of Washington, and I have
12 voted for gold mining, and that took a year and a
13 half of argument and discussion and negotiation.
14 So it's possible to do this, and we in the
15 legislature can do something about mining here.

16 I'd like to also speak to two other issues,
17 and I probably am not going to have time. I guess
18 I don't. Thank you.

19 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Georgette.

20 MS. VALLE: Thank you for being here.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. VALLE: I'm just going to add,
23 it's my 57th wedding anniversary tonight, so you
24 know that I think this is important.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. WORTMAN: Hi. My name is June
2 Wortman and I live in Green Valley and I'm a gadfly
3 for social justice and peace, and this is part of
4 social justice.

5 Has the Forest Service ever denied a mine
6 application? Very few times. From my reading,
7 their mission has been stated as to approve the
8 mine application. That's where they're starting
9 from; that's not the place to start.

10 Here are some of the endangered who I think
11 in the future, if this mine comes, will be called
12 the disappeared. The archaeological sites in the
13 area, the American Indian graves -- they're
14 supposed to be protected by the American Indian
15 Graves and Protection Act -- Indian holy sites, all
16 the birds, animals, fish, and plants. The
17 tourists, they will be endangered too, you know,
18 they won't come. The observatory, which will be
19 endangered by the light and the dust. And the
20 humans, we are all endangered, and the water, and
21 the land, and the air.

22 Now, I'm going to talk about the humans.
23 Wells are already going dry in Sahuarita, as you've
24 heard, and Rosemont can always get another permit
25 if the 6,000 acre-feet isn't enough for them. They

1 can just keep asking for permits and they'll get
2 them. Do people whose wells are running dry and
3 their homes becoming absolutely valueless have any
4 legal protection when their wells run dry? No,
5 absolutely none. Are they assured compensation if
6 their homes cannot be sold and are worthless? No
7 one will buy them. Who will compensate them? Who
8 will pay for all the relocations that will be
9 necessary when all these homes become worthless?

10 And then we've got the water and the land.
11 This state-of-the-art plan, they're planning not to
12 line their tailing ponds. Now, the Phelps Dodge
13 didn't line their tailing ponds either, but that
14 was many years ago before they were
15 state-of-the-art and, as a result, we have this
16 pollution stream coming down to infect all our
17 stuff. And will this mine start a new pollution
18 stream coming down the east side of the Santa
19 Ritas? If that's what's happening, then the water
20 and the land will be absolutely devastated. I am
21 encouraging Representative Grijalva to use the
22 committee, his environmental committee, to continue
23 passing these emergency measures postponing mining
24 in protected lands, such as he's doing in the Grand
25 Canyon. I hope you will all urge him to do that

1 too. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. LEWIN: Dee Pearson. Dee Pearson?
4 Elizabeth Nichols?

5 MS. NICHOLS: I'm Elizabeth Nichols,
6 and I've lived in Tucson 52 years. And so tonight
7 I want to talk -- I'm a licensed health care
8 provider.

9 According to the Environmental Protection
10 Agency, the mining industry releases over a billion
11 pounds of toxic chemicals each year, more than any
12 other industry. So I would like to see them
13 provide a materials safety and data sheet for every
14 chemical used in the process of mining, also
15 provide and identify all health risks associated
16 with the use of the chemicals.

17 In order to mine, you must extract much
18 more rock than copper. What this means is that
19 there are huge areas of ground and wildlife habitat
20 destroyed during the mining for copper. The excess
21 rock that has no value to the mine is tossed into a
22 pile called tailings. In these tailings, harmful
23 minerals such as asbestos, even radioactive
24 minerals can be found. When rain falls on the
25 tailings, the water reaches the waste material from

1 the copper sulfide mineral, chalcopyrite, to
2 produce sulfuric acid, which then runs into the
3 streams, contaminating the water and harming the
4 fish and life and humans, and this information is
5 from the United States Environmental Protection
6 Agency.

7 Since you are using the method of dry
8 stacking which involves using more water out of the
9 tailings, what chemicals will you be placing on the
10 tailings to keep them from becoming airborne and
11 what are all the health risks associated with the
12 use of these chemicals?

13 Since some forms of copper are extremely
14 soluble in water, they pose a serious human hazard.
15 According to the Oregon Department of Human
16 Services, when copper occurs in food or water in
17 levels greater than one part per million, stomach
18 irritation and vomiting result. Infants or
19 children exposed to copper for weeks or months may
20 suffer liver and kidney injury.

21 Many copper-bearing rocks contain lead,
22 zinc, and iron. Stream mining have been poisoning
23 themselves in the process due to the accumulation
24 and exposure to lead. These dangers have long been
25 known, though the modern understanding of their

1 full extent and the small amount of lead necessary
2 to produce them is relatively recent.

3 Blood lead levels once considered safe are
4 now considered hazardous, with no known threshold.
5 Lead poisoning may cause irreversible neurological
6 damage, as well as renal disease, cardiovascular
7 effects, and reproductive toxicity.

8 Mercury poisoning caused by sufficient
9 exposure of all mercury-based toxic compounds,
10 mercury damages the central nervous system,
11 endocrine system, liver, gastrointestinal tract,
12 kidney dysfunctions, neuropsychiatric system, brain
13 damage, and ultimately death. Mercury and its
14 residue are particularly toxic to fetuses and
15 infants.

16 How will you keep mercury from getting into
17 our water and what kind of health care will you
18 provide for the people of southern Arizona which
19 are afflicted with the chemical toxicity and other
20 health problems due you to mining on our land?

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Elizabeth.
23 Linda Schmidt?

24 MS. SCHMIDT: Hello, I'm Linda
25 Schmidt, and I purchased in '98 little by little, I

1 have an overall 14 acres right now off the Sonoita
2 Highway, Route 83. It's a -- I'm just in the
3 process of building a home and I've been paying
4 taxes on this land since '98, and I've been under a
5 lot of restrictions and Pima County has been giving
6 us massive runaround about what we can do and what
7 we can't do on our land.

8 When this copper mine came into effect a
9 few years back and it affected me and my husband,
10 we were -- we couldn't believe that this was a
11 no-brainer, since we are in the desert and that we
12 have water is the most main -- is the most
13 important source in our life. And we picked this
14 area because it was beautiful and the animals and
15 just 'cause I bicycle.

16 And we just recently had a poker run for
17 motorcycles who use that every weekend. They --
18 there's tourists going down and riding bicycles
19 down and motorcycles down to Sonoita, Patagonia,
20 Tombstone, just all over, Bisbee, Sierra Vista, and
21 the scenic highway.

22 I've been here 25 years and when I first
23 moved here, that was my most unbelievable. I was
24 just like, wow, this is beautiful, I want to live
25 out here.

1 Well, I was hoping that they would change
2 the sign, the copper mine comes into effect, the
3 scenic Sahuarita -- I mean, the scenic highway,
4 Route 83 is going to -- should be changed to a
5 hauling truck mine road or whatever, and I don't
6 know how they even can consider it a highway
7 anymore, scenic highway, 83.

8 But, anyway, everybody talked pretty much
9 what I had to say in my paperwork about why we
10 shouldn't have this mine there. I'm not against
11 mines, I just think that this area, it'll devastate
12 Arizona. If we -- if -- our tourists will
13 definitely go somewhere else.

14 I'm going to be putting up my house for
15 sale if that mine comes in 'cause I know our value
16 of the land is just -- our property value is just
17 going to go down, down, down, down, and I was under
18 the impression and I'm very confused and I wasn't
19 -- I wasn't -- I'm not a brain scientist or
20 anything like that, but I was wondering why the
21 mines would come in and promises this and that and
22 that and this, and yet there would be no guarantees
23 of what's going to happen in the future which, with
24 every single mine that's been in existence, there's
25 always been some damage or some pollution or

1 something, and so I don't know how they would be
2 able to guarantee this mine when they come in and
3 just rape the land.

4 And also one more thing, I don't know where
5 this product's going. I was under the impression
6 this product is going -- and I was under the
7 impression it was either China or Japan, and I was
8 telling everybody that China was where the source
9 was going, but I'm confused now.

10 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Linda.

11 MS. SCHMIDT: Sorry.

12 MS. LEWIN: Maria Cervantes? Maria
13 Cervantes here? Dale Cox? Dale? Steve Main?
14 Steve Main? Carol Heller? Carol? Francis Epsin?
15 Bob Cook?

16 MR. Cook: Thank you. My name's Bob
17 Cook. I'm a resident of Tucson for the last
18 48 years. My parents are 20-year residents of
19 Sonoita. I represent Sustainable Tucson, a
20 two-year-old organization that is dedicated to
21 finding solutions to -- long-term solutions to the
22 very complex problems that our region faces, and
23 I'm also a member of the Pima County Planning and
24 Zoning Commission.

25 We will submit more detailed comments about

1 all the issues that have been brought up tonight in
2 writing, but I want to spend my time just talking
3 about some of the big overarching issues that we're
4 facing here in southern Arizona.

5 I don't think that we're really truly
6 appreciating the economic tsunami that's about to
7 hit us. I think some of the -- some of the
8 information about what's going on in climate
9 science and resource depletion is beginning to get
10 to the mainstream media and I think there's a
11 little more appreciation for the fact that our
12 gasoline prices aren't, you know, four times what
13 they were a couple of years ago because of some
14 whimsical idea of some corporation or some investor
15 group or some conspiracy by the exporters.

16 We are in a situation where resource
17 depletion is going to characterize this coming
18 century. This is not the 19th century, and, folks,
19 this is no longer the 20th century. We have to
20 deal with 21st century realities. And they
21 include, number one, dealing with the problem of
22 climate change and, two, the problem of resource
23 depletion.

24 This issue of, you know, extracting all of
25 our resources in this mad dash to save our economy

1 is a little bit nonsense. And I hope that the
2 Forest Service begins to adopt and incorporate
3 analytic models that fully -- fully represent the
4 reality we are in. And I hope that the next
5 administration that is going to get voted in in
6 November takes this as priority number one.

7 Let me talk about climate change. Climate
8 scientists -- science is a rapidly changing field
9 in and of itself. The report that came out last
10 year is already obsolete. The evidence from the
11 melting of the Arctic Sea ice from last summer was
12 22 percent over the previous two-year period. This
13 is a dramatic change. They're now saying that it
14 could melt completely. We're talking about
15 accelerating change here.

16 Resource depletion -- half of all of the
17 critical resources on the planet have already been
18 mined. We need to start mining the landfills,
19 that's what China, India, and Europe is doing.

20 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, Bob.

21 MR. Cook: Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. LEWIN: Frank Peebles? Frank?
24 Matt Clark?

25 MR. CLARK: My name is Matt Clark.

1 I'm a Tucson resident, I'm a southwest
2 representative with the Defenders of Wildlife. And
3 I'm also a father of two children that I'm
4 concerned about the long-term health of them and
5 their children and their children's children.

6 The draft EIS for this project should fully
7 analyze the following impacts: water, hydrology.
8 This is not just a copper mining project, it is a
9 massive water mining project and I think that's
10 been clearly talked about tonight. So the impacts
11 to the nearby watershed, riparian areas, including
12 Cienega Creek National Conservation Area and
13 Davidson Canyon, as well as impacts to our aquifer,
14 springs, et cetera, needs to be fully analyzed.

15 Impacts to adjacent landowners' water
16 wells, long-term habitability of these lands may be
17 negatively impacted and needs to be fully analyzed.

18 Proposed replacement of this groundwater
19 with CAP water is certainly a questionable
20 practice. What will the water quality differences
21 be and why are you putting CAP water into our
22 groundwater? I think this is an important question
23 that needs to be looked at.

24 And, lastly, as was just highlighted, how
25 will prolonged drought and climate change factor

1 into this water equation? Pollution, air pollution
2 from operations, increased particulate matter into
3 the air we breathe, as well as fossil fuel
4 emissions all need to be fully analyzed. Noise
5 pollution; light pollution, impacting astronomical
6 observatories; potential for water pollution, both
7 surface and groundwater pollution; recreation and
8 aesthetics, impacts to quality recreational
9 opportunities on our public lands, hiking, camping,
10 hang gliding, hunting, et cetera; impacts to scenic
11 view shed along the scenic highway; and the
12 economic -- we've seen the boom and bust cycle here
13 in Arizona many times before, and any economic
14 benefit will inevitably be short-term, not
15 long-term. The EIS should also analyze the loss of
16 jobs upon the closure of the mine after 20 years or
17 so.

18 And also impacts to the local agricultural
19 interests is obviously an important factor that
20 needs to be considered. Habitat for endangered and
21 threatened species and their habitats. And I'm
22 just going to list some of the species that we're
23 really concerned about: the Chiricahua Leopard
24 Frog, Arizona Shrew, Swenson's Hawk, Rufus Wing
25 Sparrow, Sonoran Spotted Whiptail, Pima Western Red

1 Bat, Mexican Longtail Bat, Pale Townsend's and
2 Lesser Long-nose Bat, and the elusive Jaguar.

3 Finally, cumulative effects really need to
4 be looked at here. This is not the only mine
5 proposed in the region and so we need to be looking
6 at all of them in concert. Thank you.

7 MS. LEWIN: Thank you. Sarah Hiteman.

8 MS. HITEMAN: My name is Sarah
9 Hiteman. I am a third generation Arizonan and my
10 roots come from Tucson, Vail, and Greaterville,
11 which is in this area. I think if we continue to
12 behave the way that we've behaved in the last
13 200 years, we're going to get the same thing, which
14 is major waterways contaminated. Endangered, we've
15 created endangered species. Taxpayers have had to
16 pay for clean-up and communities, human beings have
17 suffered health issues.

18 I am tired, and I resent a foreign company
19 coming in and destroying this pristine land. I
20 don't care who's mined this land before. To me --
21 my family is pristine to me, and for my family --
22 my great-grandfather homesteaded at the base of
23 Mount Fagan, and he was a cattle rancher. My
24 family, this land is for cattle, not mining.

25 The questions that I have, this new mining

1 process as described by Augusta that will require
2 supposedly less water used for their stacking
3 tailings, if they find out that this is not an
4 effective process here, what's going to guarantee
5 us that they're not going to use more water once
6 they've got their foot in the door?

7 And has consideration been given to the
8 mining design for the climate changes? How are the
9 tailing dams designed and constructed to prevent
10 overflow of metals and chemicals because of severe
11 storms that we have here and contaminate our
12 groundwater?

13 If Augusta will be using 36 to 53 tons of
14 blasting agent per day, has there been health
15 evaluation of respiratory concerns or the
16 activation of valley fever spores in the air
17 affecting the surrounding communities? This is
18 where my parents live, and I don't like it.

19 Do our communities need to become
20 casualties for the almighty buck? There are those
21 that boldly state these ventures will be an
22 economic benefit to us here in Arizona and our
23 country, but at what price do we have to pay?
24 Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. LEWIN: John Yerger.

2 MR. YERGER: Thank you. My name is
3 John Yerger. I've only been in Arizona for eight
4 years. Yes, I'm an import, but I plan to stay
5 here, so I have a pretty vested interest in what's
6 going on here.

7 I just want to say I really like this
8 sticker by the way. For those of you who can't
9 read it in the back, it says: Respect it, and
10 underneath it Coronado National Forest.

11 I don't envy the Forest Service. I
12 appreciate the opportunity to speak here today, but
13 I don't envy them. They have a big job ahead of
14 them. They have a big burden of proof. The burden
15 of proof isn't on us coming up here to speak,
16 finding facts and studying sources, it's on the
17 Forest Service and Augusta to prove to us that, you
18 know, the damages that are going to occur as a
19 result of their mining operation, you know, don't
20 outweigh the benefits. You know, it's a cost
21 benefit analysis. So, you know, are we going to
22 get enough, you know, domestic copper and money and
23 all that to counterbalance all of the detrimental
24 effects?

25 And three minutes isn't nearly enough time

1 to list them all, so I won't bother to do it. I
2 think it's really interesting that, you know, we
3 live in a free market system. That's great, but it
4 also means that the copper that we get from here
5 won't necessarily stay here. So that's a really
6 interesting point. So everyone thinks we're going
7 to get all this copper and all this money and it's
8 great and it's going to stay here. And I don't
9 think so. It's a Canadian company. I mean, my
10 girlfriend's Canadian and I think that's fine. But
11 honestly where do you think this is going to go?
12 It's not going to stay right here.

13 So anyway, Augusta says they want to be
14 good neighbors and that's great, you know. I mean,
15 I live next-door to some pretty good neighbors. We
16 borrow stuff from each other, usually sugar, eggs,
17 stuff. Augusta seems to want to borrow some water,
18 which I think is really interesting, so they're
19 like, "Can we just come over here and borrow some
20 water and we'll put most of it back and it will be
21 fine." But that's really not the case at all
22 actually.

23 You know, as has been illustrated by other
24 people tonight, you know, water's going out, it's
25 not going back in the same place. I mean, you

1 know, it's pretty obvious what's going on here. I
2 think if you take a look at it -- and I'll take
3 some things, I wrote my own notes, but thankfully
4 the Forest Service wrote some notes for me in the
5 summary of the project.

6 Revegetation and reclamation of waste rock
7 buttresses will begin as soon as possible. Well, I
8 haven't been here all my life, but I know someone
9 who has and they've said, "Oh, that will all be
10 revegetated in 20 years, no problem." That was in
11 the 1960s, so, let's be realistic, deprived soil
12 you're revegetating, it's not the same.

13 And I could go on and on and on about that,
14 especially, you know, being from Pennsylvania,
15 originally, I've seen a lot of acid mine drainage,
16 streams running orange, it's easy to see that the
17 water's not on the surface. The water's not on the
18 surface here, so where's the damage going to be?

19 MS. LEWIN: Thank you, John. William
20 Harold Bohling? Doug Gugler? Rob Kulakofsky?

21 MR. KULAKOFSKY: Hi. I'm Rob
22 Kulakofsky. I'm here representing Center for
23 Environmental Connections. We're a member of the
24 coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection and their
25 comments so far has been fantastic, and I don't

1 want to go into the environmental issues except for
2 one.

3 The mine continues to call their operation
4 a state-of-the-art operation, high tech, and all of
5 that. Well, let me just tell you, I suggest you go
6 to Silicon Valley and talk to the folks there where
7 their water has been polluted to the point where
8 even a municipal water supply is no longer
9 available. So high tech, quote, clean, unquote,
10 state of the art, does not mean safe.

11 Really, those in favor of this mine,
12 they're people who have financial interests in it,
13 who have financial interest in mining in general,
14 or they're just plain people who have never seen a
15 hole in the ground they didn't love.

16 In contrast, the economic impact of this
17 proposed mine will have far-reaching economic
18 consequences on our region, negative consequences.

19 Now, let me tell you. I run a small
20 business, I sell rocks. I have nothing against
21 mining in general. I make my living off of rocks.
22 But this is in the wrong place. It will ruin our
23 recreation and tourism industries. It will
24 devastate our highways and transportation sector.
25 Our power availability in the power grid, property

1 values, our astronomical facilities, agriculture.

2 Last, but not least, is water, water,
3 water. Water will be needed forever to keep the
4 tailings from blowing toxic dust into the air we
5 breathe forever. That's never going to go away.
6 They talk about revegetating. The tailings do not
7 revegetate easily at all. It takes a half a
8 century at least. Both Green Valley and Sahuarita
9 are already dangerously low on their water
10 resources. Inputs of CAP water will be required to
11 keep these communities within the state required
12 assured water supply.

13 Pima County and the City of Tucson are
14 currently working together to do a regional study
15 in water resources. It's become obvious from the
16 preliminary stages of the study that the Tucson
17 Active Management Area will not attain the required
18 assured water supply by 2025. The only options
19 that were suggested by Larry Dozier of CAP is to
20 have a desalinization plant on the Pacific Coast
21 with an accompanying nuclear power plant or maybe
22 some cloud seeding. This doesn't work. We need
23 the water.

24 MS. LEWIN: Thank you. Robert Villa?

25 MR. VILLA: My name's Robert Villa and

1 I'm speaking as a person whose roots lie in mining
2 in the town of Conanea, Mexico. I'm also a TASCOCO
3 violinist, environmental educator, and
4 herpetologist and student of herpetology.

5 I think that the use of groundwater to mine
6 a mineral or a metal that is recycled easily from
7 already occurring products in the real world is
8 something that is incredibly stupid. I don't have
9 very much to say, but a famous quote, well, not
10 famous quote, but some wise words from an
11 environmentalist: As real life gives way to urban
12 life and as mobility overcomes stability, human
13 attachment to certain parts of the earth's surface
14 becomes less common. Yet the potentiality of such
15 attachment remains universal.

16 Which is why we're here today. It is very
17 different from an attachment to a country, a party,
18 a church, a cause, a person, or any group of
19 persons like a corporation. It is behind much
20 patriotism, not to a state or a country, but to the
21 natural heritage that we have in our back yards
22 that's found nowhere else in the world. With some
23 people it goes deeper than the principles and
24 embodies the profundity of life, and I think when
25 we take a chunk out of the Santa Ritas, we take a

1 chunk out of a dynamic painting that has been going
2 on for many years in our back yard and, with that,
3 we take a chunk out of what it means to be American
4 and part of nature. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. LEWIN: Chris Corral. Chris?
7 Jeffrey Latham? Ian Robertson? Sandy Barr? Randy
8 Hensley? I think that's it. Okay. That concludes
9 our cards here. And that, in fact, concludes
10 today's hearing for the proposed Rosemont Mine
11 project. We appreciate your time.

12 As stated earlier, the questions and
13 comments we heard today will be considered in
14 preparation of the draft Environmental Impact
15 Statement which will be published for review and
16 comment once it's complete. We will also make the
17 recording of today's hearing available to the
18 public. The easiest way is to check the project
19 website for the availability of these. I believe
20 you will find the website address and toll free
21 comment line number in your handout. Thank you
22 again for participating in tonight's hearing.

23 (Proceedings were concluded at 11:00 p.m.,
24 June 30, 2008.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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4
5 STATE OF ARIZONA)
6) ss.
7 COUNT OF PIMA)
8
9

10 BE IT KNOWN that I, Cindy J. Shearman, RMR,
11 CRR, took the foregoing proceedings at the time and
12 place stated in the caption hereto; that I was then
13 and there a Certified reporter in and for the State
14 of Arizona; that the proceedings were reduced to
15 writing under my direction; and that the foregoing
16 pages contain a full true, and accurate transcript
17 of my notes of said proceedings.

18 Dated this 10th day of July, 2008.
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21

22 _____
CINDY J. SHEARMAN, RMR, CRR
23 Certified Court Reporter
50718
24 State of Arizona
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