



Arizonans are Looking Forward to Rosemont Copper's Approval

by David F. Briggs

The permitting process that our nation uses to approve large industrial projects, like Rosemont, is not intended to be used as an impediment to activities, which are required to meet the basic needs of modern society. It is designed to identify and minimize the adverse environmental, social and economic impacts these projects may have on the communities where they are located.

In July 2007, Rosemont Copper submitted a preliminary Mine Plan of Operation to the Coronado National Forest, requesting approval to develop an open pit mining operation located on and adjacent to national forest service lands. It was accepted for environmental review under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) in February 2008. After nearly six years of numerous public hearings, preparation of more than 400 reports on virtually every aspect of this proposal and extensive reviews by local, state and federal governmental agencies, the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Record of Decision were officially released by the Coronado National Forest in December 2013.

Conclusions reached in these documents indicate Rosemont Copper will be able to meet or exceed all legal standards required to develop its 21st century mining project. Although the ongoing appeal/resolution process remains to be completed and the 404 permit still needs to be issued by the Army Corps of Engineers, there is little doubt that Rosemont Copper will succeed in its goal of becoming Arizona's newest copper producer.

Arizonans are looking forward to the employment opportunities this project will provide. The construction phase of this \$1.2 billion project will provide several thousand jobs for construction workers, who have been among the hardest hit by the recent decline in our nation's economy. Then there are several thousand direct and indirect jobs that will be created over the 20-year life of the project. All sectors (service, real estate, construction, utilities, manufacturing and wholesale) of Arizona's economy will benefit from this project.



Panorama of Proposed Site of the Rosemont Copper Project in the Santa Rita Mountains, Pima County, Arizona (Photo taken by David Briggs, August 2008)

Economic opportunities resulting from the Rosemont Copper project will encourage businesses to move to Tucson, providing additional employment opportunities for Arizonans.

State and local governments are always looking for ways to fund public projects and provide services to their residents. Tax revenues derived from the Rosemont Copper project and other business activities that are created as a result of this project will help provide the revenues needed for road repair, fire and law enforcement and education.

Our nation's environmental laws have functioned as they were intended to work. Rosemont Copper will become a reality. It's time we get this process completed so we can enjoy the benefits this project will provide for our community and the state of Arizona.

Disclaimer: David F. Briggs is a resident of Pima county and a geologist, who has intermittently worked on the Rosemont copper project since 2006. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of the Rosemont Copper Company.

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