



The Only Thing We have to Fear is Fear Itself

by David F. Briggs

A common tactic employed by those who oppose the Rosemont copper project employs the manipulation of our natural fear of the unknown as a tool to sway public opinion. This psychological approach is accomplished through flooding common sources of information available to the public with false, distorted, misleading and contradictory information, making it virtually impossible for the average citizen to evaluate and understand the numerous, complex scientific and technical issues involved in developing, operating and reclaiming a large copper mining operation. Add highly seditious comments and demonization of the company or professionals involved with the project to this mix and it only heightens those fears and breeds mistrust. All of these tactics were employed during the recent meetings in Elgin and Green Valley.

An unending barrage of inflammatory and prejudicial statements made by opponents of the Rosemont copper project over the last several years has done significantly more damage to Augusta Resource's credibility and image than anything its officials have said or done. Despite what some would want the public to believe, virtually every major decision Augusta Resource has made with respect to this project since its purchase of the property in 2005, has been designed to responsibly deal with the environmental and social impacts this project will have on our community. From its small compact size to its use of proven, modern, technological innovations and mining practices, Rosemont Copper will minimize water usage, conserve our natural resources, protect and enhance wildlife habitat and preserve the quality of our environment with an ultimate goal of restoring the land for productive use once mining has been completed. In keeping its commitments to the local community, it will serve as an important role model of environmental stewardship and responsible corporate citizenship.

Large mining operations like the proposed Rosemont copper project are capable of injecting tremendous amounts of capital into local communities, benefitting their citizens, governments, school districts and community projects. They also contribute to local economies through the

direct and indirect creation of thousands of jobs. Unlike federal economic stimulus programs that consume our nation's existing wealth at the expense of increasing our national debt, large mining projects represent exactly the type of economic stimulus program our nation needs, because they create the new wealth required for economic growth at no cost to the American taxpayer.

During the depths of the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself". In making this proclamation during his inaugural address on March 4, 1933, he was warning the American people that fear only paralyzes our efforts to advance our society. At great expense and sacrifice, Americans have overcome their fears, creating a modern society that is the envy of the world. Our community is now confronted with a similar challenge. Do we surrender to our fears and accept the status quo or do we move forward and responsibly use southeastern Arizona's mineral resources to help restore our nation's economy?

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 those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of Rosemont Copper.

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