



The News of Rosemont Copper's Demise has been Greatly Exaggerated

by David F. Briggs

Over the last eight years, Save the Scenic Santa Ritas has lost much of the support they once had in southeastern Arizona because of the tactics they have employed to fight the Rosemont Copper project. As Arizonans have learned more about this proposed 21st century mining project, they have come to recognize the misrepresentations made by its opponents; the falsification and distortion of the data and their attempts to undermine and/or delay the legal processes employed in its permitting. Their actions demonstrate an ignorance of the process used to evaluate and permit a major industrial projects such as Rosemont. No longer considered a credible source for information by most Arizonans, Save the Scenic Santa Ritas' rhetoric has become more extreme over recent months, showing their desperation as this project comes closer to becoming a reality.

On November 20, 2013, a press release issued by Save the Scenic Santa Ritas reported that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recommended to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) that Rosemont Copper should not receive a 404 permit, which is required by the Clean Water Act. Claiming to cite a recent EPA letter sent to the ACOE on November 7, 2013, their press release misrepresented and distorted the information contained within this document. In reality, the sole purpose of their press release was nothing more than a cold, calculated and potentially libelous attempt designed to negatively impact shareholders' investments and undermine their confidence in the management of Augusta Resource Corporation. Many investors were seriously hurt by this reckless action. I condemn the use of such tactics as do most Arizonans.

The news of Rosemont Copper's demise has been greatly exaggerated by its opponents. The confidence in the viability of the Rosemont Copper project and the ability of its management to see the permitting process to a successful conclusion has been re-enforced by Red Kite's commitment to loan Augusta Resource an additional US \$26 million. The Rosemont Copper project will become a reality. You can bank on it.

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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