



## **Opponents' Desperation Evident as Rosemont Moves Closer to Becoming a Reality**

by David F. Briggs

Now that a Final Environmental Impact Statement and a favorable Draft Record of Decision have been published after six years of intense review, Rosemont Copper's opponents are unable to accept the fact that this 21st century mining project has been fully vetted and is on track to become our nation's newest copper producer.

Unlike Rosemont Copper, who has worked very hard to address the concerns of our community, Save the Scenic Santa Ritas and other opponents have made no effort to find a compromise. In their view; "they are right and everyone else is wrong." The Rosemont copper project must not be allowed to proceed under any circumstances. This was their view when Augusta Resource announced its first plans after purchasing the Rosemont property in 2005 and remains their position today even after considerable project adjustments and accommodations.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Record of Decision are based on more than 400 peer-reviewed reports that cover virtually every aspect of this proposal. The proposed land use and conclusions reached in these documents are in compliance with our nation's laws. Its conclusions are also clearly stated. If Rosemont Copper acquires all of the required permits, it will be allowed to develop its 21st century mining project.

Despite this, Rosemont's opponents claim these NEPA documents are flawed and incomplete. They steadfastly refuse to acknowledge the benefits this project will provide our community, the state of Arizona and our nation. It really doesn't matter that the NEPA process requires all potential impacts to be disclosed and as many mitigated as reasonably possible under a strict set of guidelines. In the stated position of project opponents, any impact that might result from this project is too great. A project with environmental impacts such as Rosemont must never be allowed to proceed regardless of the benefits.

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas' attempts to sway public opinion through the dissemination of false, distorted, misleading and contradictory information have failed. Their overtly biased statements about the Rosemont copper project, the professionals employed by Rosemont and its potential impacts have significantly reduced the credibility of their group. Most Arizonans simply don't believe these unfounded or exaggerated arguments.

Rosemont Copper's opponents continue to hold out hope that something will stop this project, when every ploy they have attempted to date has failed to do so. Presently in denial, they do not understand why their efforts have failed. They are rapidly running out of time to stop this project and they know it. Gayle Hartmann's recent guest opinion in the Arizona Daily Star clearly shows their increasing desperation as this project moves through its last steps of public review and closer to becoming a reality. Arizonans await the thousands of future direct and indirect employment opportunities that will be provided once this process has been completed.

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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