



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 5, 2014

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **February 28, 2014 Letter from Regional Forester Calvin Joyner Regarding the Filing of Pima County's Objections to the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Record of Decision for the Rosemont Copper Mine Project**

Attached please find the above referenced correspondence.

Please note the possibility of the US Forest Service determining that a resolution meeting is necessary to resolve certain objections and explore opportunities to resolve all or part of our objections. I will notify the Board if the County is contacted to attend such a meeting. Pursuant to the letter from the Regional Forester, members of the public will also be invited to listen to the discussion.

Page 2 notes the time for objection review has been extended to April 30, 2014.

CHH/anc

Attachment



File Code: 1570/2810

Date: FEB 28 2014

Mr. C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator
Pima County
130 W. Congress, Floor 10
Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: 14-03-00-0091-O218

Dear Mr. Huckelberry:

We received your timely objection of Forest Supervisor Jim Upchurch's Final Environmental Impact Statement and draft Record of Decision for the Rosemont Copper Mine Project. Your objection has been assigned the number indicated in the reference line above. Please refer to that number for any correspondence related to your objection. Your objection will be processed in accordance with the procedures found in 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B.

The Rosemont Copper Mine project is one of the first major Forest Service projects in the Nation to use the pre-decisional administrative review process (objection process) for a project implementing a land and resource management plan. This new process provides the public with an opportunity to review the draft decision and rationale, and submit objections before a final decision is made. It enables me to consider objections to help resolve issues and concerns prior to a final decision.

As the reviewing officer for the Rosemont Copper Mine project, I am committed to having an open objection process so I would like to take this opportunity to share information with you about how the remainder of the objection process will be implemented. Hopefully this will clarify any questions that you might have at this point in the process. At this time, my staff and I are carefully reviewing the submitted objections and the Final Environmental Impact Statement to ensure the analysis meets current requirements and, based on the objections submitted, to determine whether changes are warranted to improve upon the analysis and decision.

In some cases, at the request of an objector, I may determine that a resolution meeting is needed to work with objectors to explore opportunities to resolve all or part of an objection. If opportunities for resolution are identified, and I do decide to hold a resolution meeting, participation in the meeting will be guided by me, along with help from the responsible official, as per the requirements found in 36 CFR 218.11(a). The issues to be discussed and the format of the meeting, including how objectors can most effectively participate, are also left to my discretion. Members of the public may attend to listen to the discussion.



I want to emphasize that any potential objections resolution meeting will be scheduled only for those issues that are determined to have the potential for resolution. Examples of reasons why an issue may have no potential for resolution include suggested remedies that would violate existing law, policy, or regulation; suggestions that are contrary to the best available science; or suggestions that would alter well-reasoned and legally compliant choices made by the responsible official. Additionally, the purpose of any potential resolution meeting is not to re-state the contents of the objection letter or to bring forward information not previously submitted. As objectors for the Rosemont Copper Mine Project, your written objections have provided us with a lot of information to work from, allowing any follow-up resolution meeting to focus on a discussion of proposed remedies related to the specific issues that I identify with an opportunity for resolution.

The Rosemont Copper Mine Project has generated a lot of interest both locally and nationally. Because of the number of individual objections we received, and the large number of objection issues presented within those objections, I have decided to exercise my discretion under 36 CFR 218.26(b) to extend the time for the objection review. This will allow my staff and me to conduct a thorough review of the issues brought forward. With this extension I intend to issue my final written response to all the objections submitted by April 30, 2014. My written response will set forth the reasons for the responses. I will group my response by similar objections rather than a point-by-point response for each issue raised. My response may also contain direction to the responsible official to implement prior to signing a final record of decision and will be the final decision of the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the objections.

If you have any questions or need additional information please feel free to contact my office at objections-southwestern-regional-office@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



for CALVIN N. JOYNER
Regional Forester

cc: Jim Upchurch