



## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER  
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C. H. HUCKELBERRY  
County Administrator

January 25, 2007

M. Lee Allison  
State Geologist and Director  
Arizona Geological Survey  
416 West Congress, Suite 100  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

**Re: Your January 23, 2007 Letter to the Chairman of the Pima County Board of Supervisors Regarding Resolution Number 2007-15 Related to the Rosemont Mine**

Dear Mr. Allison:

Thank you for your letter and clarification. The "whereas" statement in the resolution is not attributable to the Arizona Geological Survey. It is simply an obvious conclusion given the topography proximate to the mining site. The geologic map of the Rosemont area produced by the Arizona Geological Survey simply confirms our observation. The steep sloped natural ridge line of the Santa Rita Mountains immediately west of the mining site contains parallel strike and steeply dipping bedding planes, which heightens the concern.

You are correct in your conclusion that the geological report does not address stability of the site for mining purposes.

However, the topographic, hydrologic, and geologic setting does have implications for mine design and pit wall stability, which simply means that overburden amounts may be underestimated in order to achieve pit wall stability and/or the pit would be larger than necessary in a different topographic as well as geologic setting.

We appreciate your letter and concern. The "whereas" statement in the Board's resolution regarding stability is an accurate reflection of our opinion based not only on the geologic map of the Rosemont area but also our initial observations regarding the topographic and hydrologic setting of the mine site. In our upcoming reviews, we want to ensure that this

M. Lee Allison

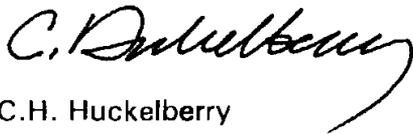
Your January 23, 2007 Letter to the Chairman of the Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Regarding Resolution Number 2007-15 Related to the Rosemont Mine

January 24, 2007

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stability issue will be adequately addressed through engineering analyses and appropriate design measures. Such would be necessary before the United States Forest Service approves a mine plan of operation that fully describes the proposed mining activity.

Sincerely,



C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

CHH/jj

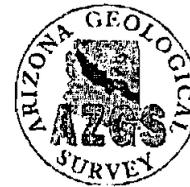
c: The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Kristin Almquist, Director, Southern Arizona Office of Governor Janet Napolitano



Janet Napolitano  
Governor

State of Arizona  
**Arizona Geological Survey**

416 W. Congress, Suite 100  
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(520) 770-3500



M. Lee Allison  
Director and State Geologist

January 23, 2007

Honorable Richard Elias, Chair  
Pima County Board of Supervisors  
130 W. Congress, 11<sup>th</sup> floor  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pima County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 2007-15 about the proposed Rosemont copper mine contains an erroneous statement about a report by the Arizona Geological Survey:

"WHEREAS, a recent geological survey of the site brings into question the stability of the high wall natural rock formations above the proposed mining pit;"

I presume this refers to our "Geologic Map of the Rosemont area, northern Santa Rita Mountains, Pima County, Arizona," by Bradford Johnson and Charles Ferguson, AZGS Digital Geologic Map 59, released this month.

Our report is a geologic study of the rocks at the Earth's surface in the Rosemont area. It makes no comments about any possible or proposed mine or mine pit design, nor does it specifically address any mining engineering issues. It certainly does not address the stability of any rock units in the map area under present conditions or under possible mining conditions. Mine design and pit wall stability are issues dealt with by mining engineers, and were not addressed in our geological report.

The faults mapped and described in the report are remnants of the forces that created the mountains millions of years ago and we found no evidence that they are active. The geometry of the faults and rock units in the map area is described by our report which can be used by mining engineers as one of many resources in designing a mine.

To the extent that your opposition to the mine is based on concerns about rock stability as speculated from our geologic report, it is misguided.

We are available to describe our report and other geologic information to you and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Lee Allison".

M. Lee Allison  
State Geologist and Director

CC Chuck Huckleberry, County Administrator  
Kristin Almquist, Office of the Governor