



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
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C. H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

July 18, 2007

Jeanine Derby
Forest Supervisor
Coronado National Forest
300 West Congress
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Re: **NEPA Process for the Rosemont Mine**

Dear Ms. Derby:

The U.S. Forest Service has received the Augusta Resource Corporation's Plan of Operations (Plan) for the Rosemont Mine. Following federal review of the Plan for completeness, the Forest Service will initiate the National Environmental Policy Act process and will identify an interdisciplinary team (ID Team), which will guide the EIS process. The ID Team usually consists of federal, state, and local agencies, experts, and consultants that have jurisdictional responsibility, geographical proximity, and/or special expertise with impacted resources.

Pima County wishes to participate as a cooperating agency on the ID team. In the NEPA process, cooperating agencies contribute to developing the scope and alternatives, assist with analysis in areas of expertise, provide staff support, and assist in reviewing NEPA documents. ADEQ was a cooperating agency for the Carlota Mine.

While the Forest Service is the major permitting body for the Plan, Pima County will be able to provide constructive input on the environmental impacts during the NEPA process. As a downstream land owner, a local land use regulator, and an air quality permit authority, Pima County has jurisdictional and management responsibility over the proposed project's impacted resources. Pima County also has a broad range of staff expertise in water, air quality, and mining, and has committed to actively commenting on any future Plans submitted for Rosemont Mine. Our participation on the ID Team will maximize the likelihood that the NEPA analysis will address issues in a way that will meet federal objectives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Huckelberry", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Jeanine Derby
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CHH/dr

c: Beverly Everson, Forest Geologist, Coronado National Forest
John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator - Public Works
Suzanne Shields, Director, Regional Flood Control District
Carmine DeBonis, Director, Development Services
Ursula Kramer, Director, Environmental Quality
Linda Mayro, Manager, Cultural Resources
Nicole Fyffe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator
Julia Fonseca, Environmental Planning Manager, Regional Flood Control District