




---

# MEMORANDUM

---

Date: August 15, 2011

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator 

Re: **Rosemont Copper Air Quality Permit**

The Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ) has developed a proposed Class II Air Quality Permit for the Rosemont Copper Company for their planned mine in southeastern Pima County. The proposed permit contains federal, state and county air quality requirements and is being processed pursuant to Pima County Code Title 17 and Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 49, Article 3. As part of PDEQ's permitting process, the proposed permit is being sent today to the Rosemont Copper Company for review. In accordance with Pima County Code 17.12.165, PDEQ shall make a proposed permit decision within nine months from the date of submittal of a complete air quality permit application. PDEQ determined the Rosemont application to be complete on November 30, 2010 and has until August 30, 2011 to formally propose the permit for public comment. PDEQ will evaluate any comments received from the company and formally propose the permit on August 30, 2011 by noticing the public comment period in the *Arizona Daily Star* and *Territorial* newspapers.

The 90-day public comment period will begin on August 30, 2011 and end on November 28, 2011. During those 90 days, PDEQ will hold an open house to provide information regarding the proposed permit, the permitting process and PDEQ authority to regulate the planned mine. PDEQ will hold a formal public hearing to take public comment regarding the proposed air quality permit after the open house. PDEQ staff is currently planning the date, time and location of the open house and public hearing. A public notice will be published on the open house and hearing when the logistics are finalized.

In order to appeal a permitting decision by PDEQ, a person must have submitted written comments during the comment period or provide oral comments at the hearing. Once the comment period has closed, PDEQ will review and respond to all comments and develop a final air quality permit by May 30, 2012.

This action is only related to the air quality permit. All other issues related to the proposed Rosemont mine are unaffected by this action. Pursuant to state law, PDEQ may only consider comments during the public comment period and public hearing related to the air quality permit and not to any other issues regarding Rosemont.

