

Top Ten Reasons Why the Mountain Empire Action Alliance Is Opposed to the Proposed Rosemont Mine

1. ***Water, Arizona's most valuable natural resource, will be endangered***-- The Mine has an expected demand of 5,000 acre-feet of water per year or 100,000 acre-feet of water over the lifetime of the Mine. Despite an already stressed ground water supply and significant anticipated population growth in Pima and Santa Cruz counties, Augusta will have no legally enforceable obligation to replace the ground water that it uses.
2. ***Arizona doesn't need another copper mine, especially one with no infrastructure in place***-- Arizona's mines are operating at only 50% capacity and already have needed infrastructure.
3. ***Augusta Resource Corporation has never operated a mine***--How much trust can we place in their claims that the "state of the art" methods they are proposing will not result in environmental and public health hazards?
4. ***The copper deposit is low grade, requiring enormous excavation in order to recover the minerals***-- Up to 1.9-billion tons of waste rock will be produced to obtain 600-million tons of copper-bearing ore over the Mine's lifetime. Most of the mine's copper & profits will be leaving the state and the country.
5. ***The mine pit will be huge and the area of the tailings and leach fields will be 18,000 feet long***. The pit will be 6,500 feet long, 6,000 feet wide, and up to 3,000 feet deep. The tailings and leach fields will extend a length equivalent to 9 Washington Monument reflecting pools laid end to end.
6. ***A total of 4,415 acres of already vanishing outdoor space for human recreation and wildlife habitat for rare and endangered species of plants and animals will be destroyed***--995 acres will be on private land; 3,345 acres will be on federal lands managed by the Coronado National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management; and 75 acres will be on state trust lands.
7. ***Arizona Scenic Highway 83 will no longer be scenic or safe***--On average, there will be 150 vehicles arriving at the Mine and 150 vehicles departing the Mine per day, the majority of which will be heavy trucks, many transporting toxic material.
8. ***The economies of Tucson, Elgin, Sonoita, Patagonia, and surrounding areas will suffer***--The scenic natural landscapes that annually attract millions of visitors, thousands of new residents and highly skilled workers, and hundreds of new businesses and industries to Pima and Santa Cruz Counties are far more important to the region's economic development and health than the 406 jobs the proposed Mine plans to create.
9. ***Blasting and digging will pollute our environment***--Blasting will be done by exploding 20,000 tons of ammonium nitrate per year or 380-thousand tons over 19 years; digging and hauling will be done by heavy machinery burning and converting to tail-pipe emissions 9-million gallons of diesel fuel per year or 171-million gallons over the Mine's estimated lifetime.
10. ***Large open pit copper mines can and do fail, leaving the immense burdens of mine closure, habitat reclamation, and remediation of environmental contamination to the tax payers***. In the last 20 years, at least 15 "state-of-the-art" mines have filed for protection under bankruptcy leaving to the taxpayers the immense financial burden of mine closure, remediation of environmental contamination, and habitat reclamation totaling over \$12-billion.