



Copper Flat Copper Mine Draft Environmental Impact Statement

BLM WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU! PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Please return this form by **MARCH 4, 2016**. Additional sheets may be attached if more space is needed. Fold the form so the BLM address is showing and tape or staple the edges together to mail it. No postage is required.

Ficklin, Joseph K.
Name
18 Casa Roca Road
Address
Caballo New Mexico 87931
City State Zip
Mail to: HC31 Box 83 Caballo

Organization (if applicable)
Add to Mailing List YES NO

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, are available for public inspection in their entirety.

ATTACHED IS MY COMMENT FORM. BOTH MY
WIFE AND I HAVE REVIEWED THE DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND HAVE
FOUND IT CONCERNING AND INCOMPLETE, IN
MANY WAYS AND MANY AREAS.

PLEASE GIVE THIS MORE STUDY AND MORE
CONSIDERATION BEFORE MAKING A FINAL
DECISION. WE WILL RELY ON YOU.

Thank you.
J.K.F.

Comments on Copper Flat Copper Mine
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Page 3-35: NMCC does not have the water for rapid filling of the pit at the cessation of mining as proposed. The adjudicated amount of water approved for the mine project is 888.783 acre feet per year. Rapid filling at the rate of 3000 gallons of water per minute for 7 months would consume 2800 acre feet.

If rapid filling of the pit could somehow be accomplished it is still a bad solution. Using the most precious natural resource in this desert environment, fresh water, it merely delays the ultimate development of the pit lake into a cesspool of acidic water containing ever increasing concentrations of toxic metals. It would have to be fenced off forever. That is the legacy NMCC proposes to leave Sierra County.

Throughout, the DEIS draws conclusions from inadequate field data:

On page 3-53: "Testing period August 2010 thru April 2011". This was a drought period. DEIS conclusion: Las Animas Creek does not contribute perennial surface water flow to the Rio Grande. And "The higher flow rates are most likely associated with snowmelt and late summer precipitation. True. And true of most Western streams.

Actual observation, February 2016: Las Animas Creek has contributed surface water flow to the Rio Grande since July 2015. Anecdotal evidence describes a perennial flow from 1980's into the 1990's.

Page 3-229: From DEIS "Haul truck noise would be within acceptable level based on existing conditions. Given the remote location, presence of topographical barriers...these effects would be negligible". This is a guess. We live on the north side of Animas Creek, vicinity of Alto Road, and we can definitely hear the noise of trucks, motorcycles, cars on Highway 152. The noise from ore trucks hauling on Highway 152 is of concern to us.

Joseph K. Ficklin, Feb. 25, 2016
Sandra D. Ficklin, Feb. 25, 2016
18 Casa Roca Rd.
HC 31 Box 83
Caballo, NM, 87931