

Dear Editor,

I attended the BLM Draft Environmental Impact Study public meeting for the Copper Flat Mine Project held December 16, at the Hillsboro Community Center, a beautifully restored historic building. Hillsboro was a mining town in the 1880's, but now is home to a lot of very well educated and accomplished retirees. The place was packed with residents of Hillsboro, Kingston and Animas Creek. The proposed mine is in their back yard. Now you would think those affected residents would have the final word on the project, but they overwhelmingly reject the plan, which is not what THEMAC, dba New Mexico Copper Corporation, and TorC "leaders" want to hear. Ironically, it appears BLM also is not on the side of the residents! That's what the DEIS says!

The DEIS is an inch thick, tedious and boring to read. But, there is important information in it which clearly proves bias by BLM, and an ongoing contamination of ground water over the past 35 years as a result of the mine start in 1978 and failure in 1980, inadequate reclamation at its ending, Mother Nature, and inaction by BLM.

On page ES-7, BLM gives its "No Action Alternative" in one thin, dismissive, and contradictory paragraph. "Local employment and economic revenues would not increase as a result of this alternative." Not true! It goes on to say, "The mine area would be reclaimed according to BLM standards and NMED requirements" This is an old mine which has lain continuously dormant with exposed, oxidizing copper ore and uncontrolled infusion of contaminants into the ground via weather. It is estimated that reclamation would create 75 jobs, last four to five years, and cost THEMAC/NMCC \$42 million. That's quite a bit of revenue, but a huge cost with no return to already strapped THEMAC/NMCC.

If THEMAC/NMCC were to give up their plan, build a water bottling plant at their four deep-water wells, their current 889 acre-feet of water rights at just 10 cents a gallon could make them millions, employ locals, and everybody would win. Duh!?

Le Roy Henderson

Ex 6

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Editor,

MVEDA's February Borderplex Forum was great therapy for me. The speaker was Roberto Coronado, Assistant Vice President in Charge and Chief Economist for the Dallas Region of the Federal Reserve. He didn't sugar coat New Mexico's lagging economy; no fabricated data, or exaggerated meager accomplishments of any political faction. Just the facts! One of those glaring realities is NM's over reliance on the energy and mining industries. Six times more dependent than the national average. That restricts our ability to pay for our other feedbag: Government. The good news was that we already have an industry with greater potential which in southwestern NM is helping counter the losses in northwestern and southeastern NM's energy industry: Health Care.

In Sierra County, elected officials, business leaders and special interests have trudged along an economic path of chasing the next shiny object. Treasure hunters obsessed with El Dorado. We have a bull's eye on our back which says, "We are desperate!" When schemers come around all they need is a laser pointer and they can make our herd of cats do flips! Fun to watch, but sad and painful to pay for.

I asked Mr. Coronado about copper mining potential given the global low demand. Simple truth? Not good! In 2012 copper was at its highest at \$3.96/lb, and averaged about \$3.85. In 2010, THEMAC, dba NM Copper Corp, told the public in public meetings that they could make their low grade mine work with then high prices, and the low end threshold would be \$3.00/lb. Today world demand is low and dependent on emerging economies which are all lagging. Copper was below \$2.00/lb last week and is hovering around that mark with an industry fear that it will go lower and stay there over the next several years. Copper has taken a bigger hit than in 1981 when Quintana Minerals abruptly closed after only a few months of operation alleging sliding copper prices. Logic would dictate reopening a low grade copper mine is a fool's venture. But THEMAC is still making our herd of cats chase their laser dot. Why?

Le Roy Henderson

Ex 6

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]