LCDO_Comments, BLM_NM <blm_nm_lcdo_comments@blm.gov>

Draft EIS for Copper Flat Copper Mine

1 message

Ex 6 [redacted] > Sat, Apr 2, 2016 at 8:28 AM
To: BLM_NM_LCDO_Comments@blm.gov

April 2, 2016

Via email: BLM_NM_LCDO_Comments@blm.gov

Dear Mr. Haywood:

I am writing to provide comments on the Copper Flat Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) recently prepared and released for public comment by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The DEIS does not provide enough information for me to fully evaluate the proposed action to commence mining and processing operations at the Copper Flat Copper mine near Hillsboro, NM. I request that the BLM amend the DEIS to ensure that the Agency can make a decision that is based on a complete understanding of the environmental consequences of the proposed action and alternatives and facilitate taking actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment. Specifically I request that BLM more fully analyze the impacts of the proposed mining operation on water impacts. As it stands now, the DEIS does not comply with NEPA and BLM's own regulations for surface management.

I believe that this project will cause surface and groundwater contamination and will reduce the amount of water flowing to adjacent streams and springs and to the Rio Grande and Caballo Lake. The proposed action and alternatives do not comply with the New Mexico Mining Act since a pit lake would be created at mine closure that most likely will require "perpetual care" to achieve water quality standards potentially over hundreds of years.

In addition to the substantial water impacts, I believe that this proposed mining operation will also have significant negative impacts on wildlife, air quality, roads, traffic, recreation and tourism, cultural resources, and the economy.

Due to the lack of adequate information on the substantial impacts of the proposed mining operation, I urge BLM to disapprove the plan of operation for the Copper Flat Mine.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christine Wells
Ex 6 [redacted]