

TO: Gerard Schoeppner, NM Mining and Minerals Division  
DATE: September 30, 2022  
FROM: Janet Wallet-Ortiz, Grant County Resident (40 years)  
RE: Comments on Tyrone Emma Pit Project GR010RE

Freeport's environmental is horrific both here in Grant County, in Morenci, Arizona and in other mines around the world. Their track record is one of cutting costs and making profits first and asking environmental questions later. Records show management has been fined for environmental violations in several of their mining cites.

In the case of mining in Grant County, the accumulative effects of nine mining pits on the groundwater— all within one mile of each other---have not been studied. Baseline water levels have not been measured. Freeport is ludicrously claiming that the quality and quantity of will not be affected. This makes no sense as the project itself will require using fresh groundwater which will be contaminated after use. Will Freeport recycle its toxic water? How much acre feet of water will be lost in the process of sump pumping and where are the facts, figures, and calculations that explain that process of dewatering?

The proposed Emma Pit mine is approximately 400 acres with a pit 600 feet deep----that is more than 200 feet below groundwater level. The pit will have to be dewatered during mining operations---what a waste of precious water in the midst of a 1200 year drought in our state. Such an operation will benefit only Freeport and leave the rest of us with poisoned land and water. Freeport can in no way guarantee that its mining operation and dewatering will not affect the wells of nearby residents who live close to the proposed Emma Pit mine. Can Freeport guarantee to pay for building a freshwater pipeline to all houses already there who will be affected by dewatering of groundwater?

Are there plans for lining the pits? Will there be third party monitoring of the process, or will the wolf be guarding the henhouse. No way should any thinking person trust Freeport to do its own testing and reporting.

To say that this 400 acre pit will not affect wildlife is just a lie. We know enough about ecology and environment coexisting with mining operations. We know they are incompatible. The noise from the process (blasting, heavy equipment moving, etc) and the dust and lighting for this extensive operation adds up to environmental and wildlife damage. What affects wildlife affects people, too. The quality of life for residents near this operation will be reduced dramatically. Nervousness, anxiety, lack of sleep from all of the above will make for very, very hazardous living.

In short, a big NO should be the Mining and Mineral Division's answer to a request for a permit for the Emma Pit mine.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.  
Janet Wallet-Ortiz  
2009 N. Juniper Ave  
Silver City, NM 88061