

**In The Matter Of:**

*Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange Draft EIS  
Public Hearing*

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*Public Comments  
September 17, 2019*

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**G R I F F I N   G R O U P  
I N T E R N A T I O N A L**

2398 East Camelback Road, Suite 260  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

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RESOLUTION COPPER PROJECT AND )  
LAND EXCHANGE DRAFT EIS )  
PUBLIC HEARING )  
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Ray Elementary School Cafeteria  
701 AZ 177  
Kearny, Arizona

PUBLIC COMMENTS

September 17, 2019  
6:24 p.m.

REPORTED BY:  
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Certified Reporter  
Certificate No. 50876

PREPARED FOR:  
U.S. Forest Service

(Certified Copy)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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1 MS. GRAMS: So we will start with Number 8.

2 MICHAEL GETTENS: Thank you. My name is Michael  
3 Gettens, M-i-c-h-a-e-l G-e-t-t-e-n-s, and I am a resident of  
4 Queen Creek, Arizona, which is not too far from here.

5 And with all due respect to the mining company  
6 and the employees of the mining company, I am an opponent of the  
7 mine completely, but my comment specifically to the Draft EIS is  
8 that environmental assessment has not been completed yet for  
9 this area of Skunk Camp 6, which we're just a stone's throw away  
10 from, and there are actually people living here, unlike what the  
11 video said.

12 So my specific concern is -- and due to a  
13 community that's been a long running community on Dripping  
14 Springs Road -- it's called Wind Spirit Community, and I would  
15 like to request a full assessment of what's going to be  
16 destroyed in this area, especially if the water quality is  
17 affected.

18 I know that the video did say that this is the  
19 least impactful site to put the waste. You know, it's already a  
20 lot of mines in the area. Personally, my opinion is that we  
21 should be regenerating this area as best we can rather than  
22 continuing to, you know, destroy it. I would like to see this  
23 area get better over time rather than continue to decline in its  
24 health of the landscape.

25 So Wind Spirit Community, if you guys can assess

1 the value of that land to make sure that it is compensated for,  
2 and all the members of that community can be given back their --  
3 all the labor and all the materials that they've used to build  
4 that community over the next 50 years so that they can rebuild  
5 eventually somewhere else when their home is destroyed by this  
6 tailings site in Skunk Camp.

7           And I encourage everybody who's going to be  
8 affected by this Skunk Camp North to have your land assessed.  
9 Make sure it's appraised. What is the value of this land, you  
10 know, out here? It's priceless. But we need to put a number on  
11 it. We need to make sure that Rio Tinto is compensating  
12 everyone here that's going to be affected by it.

13           So you can find Wind Spirit Community at  
14 windspiritcommunity.org. Their website is  
15 info@windspiritcommunity.org. Their address is 4514 East  
16 Dripping Springs Road in Winkelman, and the ZIP is 85192.

17           I'm not a member of that community, but it has a  
18 really important part in my heart. So I definitely want to do  
19 all I can to protect that land. And I don't think we should put  
20 the tailings somewhere else. I don't think there should be any  
21 tailings from Oak Flat, because everybody who I've talked to  
22 about this project sees that it is not viable as a solution for  
23 stimulating Arizona's economy. Our economy is about the  
24 environment. It's about people coming here to see the beauty of  
25 this land, and let's keep it that way and keep making it better.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. GRAMS: Number 3.

3 LESLIE GLASS: Hello. I'm Leslie Glass. I live  
4 in Tucson, Arizona, and I am here because you would not hold the  
5 meeting in Tucson as requested.

6 First I would like to acknowledge that we are  
7 gathered here tonight on traditional Apache territory, and I  
8 have my notes all typed up of exactly I was going to say, but I  
9 had too many things that came to mind. One was watching the  
10 presentation and the history of the mining here. It started in  
11 1850, if I recall. Started in 1850, the mining. And I would  
12 just like to let you know, I don't know if you're aware, but by  
13 1878, nearly all Apache territory and land had been taken. Just  
14 think about that for a minute.

15 I'm going to go back to my comments.

16 One of the supporting documents that was cited in  
17 the Draft EIS is the Tonto National Forest Management Plan.  
18 It's dated October 1985. This 34-year-old document states, in  
19 Public Issues and Management Concerns, Water Quality and  
20 Quantity: "Demand for water use on and off the Forest Service  
21 exceeds the supply. Some impacts on other resources are  
22 anticipated if water yield is increased. Forest management  
23 activities have the potential to significantly alter water  
24 quality. Physical, chemical and biological qualities of water  
25 can limited its uses. Currently, isolated pollution problems on

1 and off Forest produce conflicts with water uses."

2 As stated in my prior EIS comments of July 2016,  
3 I asked questions that I never received a response on, so I'm  
4 going to ask them again.

5 First, I'd like to know when the draft -- 2007  
6 Draft Forest Service Management Plan is going to be completed.

7 Resolution Copper mine is going to consume over  
8 600,000 acre-feet of water during the life of the mine. How is  
9 this sustainable given that in 1985, "Water Quality and  
10 Quantity: Demand for water use on and off the Forest exceeds  
11 the supply"? What -- what's changed that we can afford to give  
12 our water away to Resolution Copper?

13 Resolution Copper General Procedure GPO indicates  
14 that the mine will be heavily reliant, 62 percent, on banked CAP  
15 water. Central Arizona Project water. How is this sustainable  
16 when communities across the state depend on CAP water? RCM will  
17 be drawing from all available water resources, including plans  
18 to drill 30 water wells. They're already destroying Oak Flat  
19 with the water.

20 The earth fissures are heartbreaking. The plant  
21 life there is clearly stressed. I am concerned about future  
22 drought. Arizona water quality and quantity are already poor  
23 and limited. A water problem of immense scope and consequence  
24 as the deserts stay in a climate change crisis, we must be  
25 conservative and do everything we can to protect the water for

1 future life.

2 MS. GRAMS: Number 6.

3 ROY C. CHAVEZ: Good evening. My name is Roy  
4 C. Chavez, R-o-y C. C-h-a-v-e-z. I'm a third-generation  
5 lifelong resident of Superior, a former four-term mayor, and I  
6 served several years as town manager for the community of  
7 Superior. I've worked in the mining industry with Hecla Mining,  
8 Kennecott, here in Ray and in Hayden. I worked for Magma Copper  
9 in Superior, and more recently, I worked for BHP until they shut  
10 down in '96.

11 The DEIS review paints a very bleak picture for  
12 the economic and social and environmental impact to Superior, as  
13 referenced by the current mayor's comments in last month's  
14 Superior Sun, and I would agree with it.

15 I represent, as chairperson and spokesman,  
16 Concerned Citizens & Retired Miners Coalition in Superior, we've  
17 been battling this for a dozen years or more, and let me share  
18 with you that my concern today about the EIS is that this should  
19 have been done several years ago.

20 The NEPA process is the lawful method of  
21 assessing the conveyance of public lands to the private sector.  
22 And the majority and main interest of that study is to determine  
23 if the public lands in the interaction of that sale or  
24 acquisition to the private sector will be in the best interest  
25 of the public, not of special interest legislation and greed,



1 and that's what we have here in this project, ladies and  
2 gentlemen.

3 Today, as we speak, we're finding out there's  
4 some faults in this project. There's some deception that's been  
5 used throughout the last decade. A few of us hung in there, and  
6 we were fortunate enough to defeat this legislation, this  
7 special interest legislation for about a dozen years. It never  
8 went to the floor of the House or the Senate for actual  
9 affirming vote. It wasn't until the special interest  
10 legislation was tied to the National Defense Fund back in  
11 2014-'15 by the late Senator John McCain.

12 I want to share with you that as of July 14th,  
13 2019, Rio Tinto, the mother company, announced to Bloomberg  
14 Financial that they were holding off with a Resolution project  
15 in Superior. They were concentrating on a new mining operation  
16 in Australia and their current operation in Mongolia, which they  
17 have been suffering in regards to financial conditions and  
18 operations. In that project, Mongolia receives -- the  
19 government receives 34 percent of the revenue. I share with you  
20 we're getting nothing but a doughnut of pain and promises. The  
21 only factual thing here is the destruction of the environment.

22 MS. GRAMS: Number 4.

23 JIM OHL: Thank you. My name is Jim Ohl, J-i-m  
24 O-h-l. My wife and I have a small ranch over on Highway 77,  
25 which is south of this project.

1                   The main reason I'm here and so many of our  
2 neighbors are worried about what's going on is because we all  
3 get our water from the Dripping Springs Wash, which is at the  
4 top of this project. And so all of us, from the project, all  
5 the way down to the Gila River, our wells are either in the wash  
6 or within a couple hundred feet of the wash, and our water level  
7 where we're at is 57 feet down, folks. That's a shallow well.  
8 And the depth of most of our wells are 100 feet. So if anybody  
9 starts pumping that thing out, it won't be too long before it's  
10 empty.

11                   I came from California, where I saw a vineyard  
12 industries pump water out for their vineyards and take our wells  
13 down 100 feet. People had to redrill their wells, and the  
14 vineyard people told us to go pound sand, and that's something I  
15 don't want to have happen here.

16                   Now, if the water does get contaminated in that  
17 wash or under that wash, you can't uncontaminate it. You're  
18 toast. You're screwed, plain and simple.

19                   The thing about this presentation that made me --  
20 that did not make me feel warm and fuzzy was the statement that  
21 this project's more resilient to mishap. Well, that would  
22 bother me a lot if it's my water.

23                   Anyway, I was told by the hydrologist that we  
24 have one -- that they're using one water well for their baseline  
25 of their water specs. What I propose that would probably make

1 us feel a lot whole better for us getting our water out of it is  
2 that they take and test -- have a well on somebody's property  
3 every mile to the Gila River. Now, this wash goes directly to  
4 the Gila River, about 11 miles south of this project. If they  
5 have one well every mile, have it checked four times a year by  
6 an independent lab to EPA specs, which are stronger than the  
7 state specs on water quality -- way stronger -- so if they would  
8 do that, that would probably make a whole bunch of us feel a  
9 whole lot more comfortable about this project.

10 But that's just one part of the project. We  
11 don't know the rest of it. Water quality's the big thing that  
12 jumps to everybody's mind, and if you're using your water, for  
13 instance, to do fields or where that grass is going to go to  
14 cattle that get sold to the public, you don't want your water to  
15 have heavy metals in it that can contaminate your cattle, that  
16 can contaminate the public. I've had heavy metal poisoning, and  
17 it's no fun. It's cumulative, sets in your joints, and it takes  
18 forever to get out. And once you've got it, again, you're kind  
19 of screwed.

20 So anyway, that's all I had to say. Thank you  
21 very much.

22 ANNA JEFFREY: My name is Anna Jeffrey from  
23 Superior.

24 The EIS, when I look at it, when I'm looking  
25 through it, it gives me a headache, and it makes me literally

1 want to cry. It really does.

2           What I want to talk about really is what's here  
3 and what would be gone forever. You know, when I drove over  
4 here from Superior, I'm looking at the back of Apache Leap, and  
5 I know the trails, and I know where the Apaches used to come  
6 down the mountain, down Apache Leap, and where they'd go up,  
7 even on their horses, because they wouldn't have to climb. I  
8 know those trails. I know all the way to Hackberry Creek and  
9 down into the Gun Canyon (phonetic), and then all the way over  
10 here, Battle Axe Road and the White Canyon and the springs, the  
11 springs that had been rerouted for whatever reason, and all of  
12 the mining claims you see everywhere.

13           We live in a very special place here. It's a  
14 beautiful, beautiful, beautiful place, and if we don't stop the  
15 mining that's going on right now, it's going to continue to  
16 destroy all that we have left. You know, I looked at the -- oh,  
17 God. Yeah. When I go past Ray mine, I just have to look away,  
18 you know, and I imagine what it used to look like. They show  
19 pictures there of Sonora, when it used to be there. The town's  
20 gone now.

21           One thing I constantly do is take a lot, a lot, a  
22 lot of photographs of the area, because we've got to keep a  
23 record of what was once here, and I'm hoping to God that -- and  
24 I pray to God that that we don't destroy that, and it -- that  
25 you guys look at this, where we are, and know it and realize

1 that is what's important here. It's more important -- the  
2 water, the wildlife, the beautiful, all of it, it's sacred, and  
3 it's valuable recreationally. People want to come here to get a  
4 taste of the Wild West and see the cactus, the saguaros and  
5 things that they don't see other places. But if the mining  
6 continues, we're just going to be one big huge hole, and all the  
7 wildlife, plants, everything will be dead because of the water  
8 poisoned and gone.

9                   And I've got 30 seconds, 29, 28, yeah, but that's  
10 the countdown right there, and if you think about it, it's a  
11 countdown to us being able to save what we have here and  
12 remember, just to look out there and see it.

13                   Thank you.

14                   HENRY MUNOZ, SENIOR: Henry Munoz, Senior. First  
15 of all, good evening, folks. My name -- I was born and raised  
16 in Superior. Five generations of mining. So there's mining in  
17 my blood. I worked eight years in Superior cut and fill until  
18 they shut down, 1982. I worked in San Manuel for 13 years until  
19 1999 when that shut down. I have two years of tunnel bore  
20 mining experience with the SAC (phonetic) project for Department  
21 of Transportation.

22                   My main concern about this is when I heard the  
23 project was water. Water's probably the most important thing in  
24 our society right now. People say blood's thicker than water,  
25 but without water, you do not have blood. As you heard

1 Mr. Brian Bosworth, Forest Service, said, this is the most  
2 complex project that he's ever been associated with.

3 My concern was referring to Chapter 4, under  
4 Consulting Parties in the Draft EIS. It pertains to the United  
5 States Geological Survey, a science bureau with the Department  
6 of the Interior. They declined to participate.

7 Okay. And I'm just going to give you a rundown  
8 of what USGS does. Provides science about the natural hazards  
9 that threaten lives and livelihood, the water, energy, minerals  
10 and other natural resources we rely on. Also the health of our  
11 ecosystem to the environment and the impacts of climate and land  
12 use change.

13 Without having USGS on board with this project,  
14 it's like somebody telling you they're going to build the  
15 tallest building in the world, and they're not going to have any  
16 structural engineers on site. Okay?

17 No block -- this blockade method, it's never been  
18 blockaded at this depth before anywhere in the world. Why can't  
19 we do cut and fill, which was done in Superior prior to its  
20 closing in 1982?

21 Twelve years ago I had a discussion with  
22 Dr. Robert McNish, a renowned expert on desert Sonoran water.  
23 He worked on the Dos Pobres land exchange project up in Safford.  
24 He was a professor at the U of A. He tells me, "Henry" -- this  
25 is 12 years ago, mining -- "there's going to be a big issue with

1 the water, and the tribes are going to sue for their fair share  
2 of CAP allotment. They're going to win. They're going to win.  
3 And you know what? They're going to have the keys. Water is  
4 going to be the new oil." Arizona gets 2.8 million CAP  
5 acre-feet of water. The tribes were awarded 1.4.

6 So you have cities like Chandler buying water  
7 from Gila River Indian Tribe. \$43 million. You have the City  
8 of Gilbert buying \$30 million from the San Carlos Apache Tribe.  
9 Water is the new oil, and there's not enough water around to  
10 where people now are buying it, and they're storing it for  
11 future development. California's interested in buying our water  
12 from the Native tribes now.

13 The other thing that really bothered me was that  
14 we have Superstition Vista coming online. 1.2 million people  
15 within 20 years are going to be living between Apache Junction  
16 and Florence Junction, just south of Highway 60. We have this  
17 mine project to the east of us, and we have Superstition Vista.  
18 Poor Superior's in the middle. What are we going to do?

19 Thank you very much. God bless.

20 DAVID HERRERA: Hello. My name is David Herrera,  
21 H-e-r-r-e-r-a. I'm a resident of Kearny, but I was born and  
22 raised in Superior.

23 And after reading the environmental impact study,  
24 I found that I had a lot of concerns that -- but even after  
25 reading it and the nebulous things that the draft says that

1 they're going to possibly do, you know, doesn't give me much  
2 assurance. And then when you look at the fact that who is the  
3 head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture? Sonny Perdue, who  
4 just got rid of all these climate scientists because they don't  
5 agree that our environment is going bad, and so his option is to  
6 get rid of these people that are writing scientific papers  
7 within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

8                   And so I kind of wonder -- a lot of this report  
9 was boilerplate. It had nothing substantive to it, and the more  
10 you read about it, and you're realizing the only reason that  
11 Sonny Perdue is going to let these people from U.S. Department  
12 of Agriculture to remain at the U.S. Department of Agriculture  
13 is because they're doing a great service for Resolution Copper.

14                   You know, if I was -- I've got the copies of the  
15 Environmental Impact Study, and if I was trying to buy a car --  
16 these are four giant volumes, you know, but it's like buying a  
17 car. Nobody gives you four volumes to read about something  
18 without giving you very specific ideas, you know. But they're  
19 going to sell us a car that doesn't have tires, and the motor's  
20 not the best, and you know, there's just a lot of problems. And  
21 the more you look at it, the more you realize that this is a  
22 show, a show that USDA is doing for Resolution Copper.

23                   The object of this game is that -- it's not --  
24 it's not the copper. It's the water that Superior represents.  
25 Within a 10-mile radius of Superior, you get the most amount of



1 water fall than any other location. We get four times the  
2 amount of water falling right there. Then when you realize that  
3 Resolution has a 7-foot -- a 7,000 foot giant straw, and they're  
4 sucking up the water from the deeper water table, going all the  
5 way to Miami, and so they're pumping it out, sending it down to  
6 the valley, and the big losers are going to be people in these  
7 small rural towns, because they're going to build this big  
8 society up there, and we're not going to have any water left.

9 Thank you.

10 ROGER FEATHERSTONE: Hi. I'm Roger Featherstone,  
11 Director of the Arizona Mining Reform Coalition. R-o-g-e-r  
12 F-e-a-t-h-e-r-s-t-o-n-e.

13 We are -- I lost my page here. We feel that this  
14 DEIS is deficient and needs to be withdrawn and redone for a  
15 number of different reasons. I'll just go through a few right  
16 now.

17 The original location that's shown over there,  
18 the big blue blob on the concerned citizens 3D models is the  
19 original location for the tailings, and when that was proposed  
20 in the plan of operations, Rio Tinto swore on a stack of Bibles  
21 that was the best thing since sliced bread. It was this amazing  
22 location. Perfect. Then they did geocharacterization of the  
23 site, and they found that the ground was more fractured than  
24 they thought, and the water table was higher than they thought.  
25 Oops. So now we have this preferred alternative at Skunk Camp

1 that, again, is the best thing since sliced bread, but there's  
2 been no geotechnical testing of that location. So how do they  
3 know? And what happens when they do that testing that they find  
4 out that it also isn't suitable?

5 I want to talk about dam safety. It's important  
6 to understand that all four alternatives in this DEIS would be  
7 illegal in the countries of Chile and Brazil. Why is it in this  
8 day and age in the United States of America we could possibly  
9 think of proving a dam that would hold a billion -- 1.3 billion  
10 tons of toxic waste that would not be legal in a South American  
11 country? If the dam at Skunk Camp that's proposed for this  
12 tailings facility were to fail, more than a billion tons of  
13 waste would reach the town -- the people living in Dripping  
14 Springs within 16 minutes. Where is there anything in the DEIS  
15 that talks about how those people would be warned? Would be  
16 evacuated? What would happen to their health and safety, you  
17 know, living below such a structure as this?

18 And finally, for now, in water, why does Rio  
19 Tinto think they can use 10 percent of the average of Arizona  
20 mines for production without using any new mining techniques?  
21 Rio Tinto says they'll use far less water than anybody else, but  
22 somehow they will do it without any new techniques. Is this  
23 some kind of a voodoo magic or something? I just don't  
24 understand that.

25 So thank you.

1                   MICHAEL GETTENS: What would be the total water  
2 use if they use the full amount?

3                   ROGER FEATHERSTONE: The same amount of water as  
4 the City of Tempe uses. At least 590,000 acre-feet, according  
5 to the DEIS.

6                   MS. GRAMS: Okay. So that's everyone that has  
7 previously signed up to speak. So at this time we would open it  
8 up to anyone else who hasn't spoken here at the hearing to -- if  
9 you'd like to take the opportunity to provide a comment now, you  
10 may.

11                   Okay. Looks like no takers for that. So we will  
12 allow those who -- please.

13                   JOE VILLEGAS: Hi. My name is Joe Villegas, and  
14 I live in Dudleyville.

15                   The thing that I was going to say is this mining  
16 project that they want to do up there at Oak Flats, the thing  
17 that they -- I don't know if they considered it or not, but  
18 there's a lot of fault lines through there. A lot of them. And  
19 the thing of it is if they're going with their blasting and  
20 doing what they want to recover, what's going to happen is  
21 they're going to lose the water. They're going to hit a fault  
22 line, and the water's going to go down, and you ain't going to  
23 have no water. All the way from the mines, Copper Creek, all of  
24 those places, they ain't going to have no water, nothing at all.

25                   I've seen it happen in other places. I've seen

1 the drilling that they did. I've seen them where they had it  
2 going on a fault line. Took them two and a half months to fill  
3 that fault line up with ore so they could get their machine in  
4 there. I seen all that happen. I worked in the mines. I know  
5 what can happen, what don't, and Oak Flats, as far as I'm  
6 concerned with it, it was a place where all the plant life and  
7 everything that's there -- there's plant life there -- medicine  
8 for being diabetic. There's plant life there for cancer and  
9 other -- and for your skin cancer, all of those plants up there.  
10 There's different plants for different things up there. That's  
11 how come the only people that did live up there, that's what  
12 they would survive with, with all the vegetation and everything  
13 that was there.

14           When I was a little kid, there used to be a  
15 stream up there running with water. There's no water no more.  
16 And then the water that they're pumping down to the valley and  
17 stuff like that, that hot water there is created by the rocks  
18 getting hot by lava, and it's heating the water, and that's how  
19 come they got the hot water coming out up there.

20           There's a lot of other places around in this area  
21 from the Aravaipa, from Mammoth and all over, that there is hot  
22 springs all over, and that's all done by volcano. That's  
23 underneath us, and it's heating up the water and it comes out.  
24 I've seen a lot of those places.

25           And as far as Oak Flats, I hate to see it get

1 destroyed.

2 That's all I got to say about it.

3 MS. GRAMS: Okay. So anyone else who hasn't  
4 spoken that would like to take a turn?

5 Okay. So we would open up to those who had  
6 previously spoken. If you would like to provide additional  
7 comment in three minute increments, you're welcome to do so.

8 LESLIE GLASS: I would like to. Leslie Glass,  
9 L-e-s-l-i-e G-l-a-s-s.

10 I'm not good at public speaking, as you can  
11 probably tell. I've got pages and pages of DEIS notes. But  
12 what I really, really want to talk about here tonight, too, is  
13 also the alternative preferred site of Dripping Springs and its  
14 cultural significance to the Apache people and Native Americans  
15 of this area and the region.

16 These mitigation strategies and the exchange for  
17 loss of the resources are incomparable in value. The  
18 traditional cultural properties that will be irreversibly  
19 damaged and the permanent changes that affect the ability of  
20 tribal members and non-Natives like myself to use this area for  
21 religious purposes is incomprehensible.

22 For many Native people, without doubt, Oak Flat  
23 is a spiritually powerful place, as well as all of the  
24 alternative sites. The sacredness of the spiritual place cannot  
25 not be denied through the creation of controversy or plans that

1 it is not, and the desecration of any place where spiritual  
2 connection to God is made cannot be treated, mitigated or  
3 exchanged for anything of equal value. One cannot place a value  
4 on the creation of God, nor can one quantify or articulate human  
5 damage and the loss that will be suffered. On the spiritual  
6 level, it is unimaginable.

7 I know the inconsolable heartache and grief and  
8 anger that I felt over the hate crime that happened at Oak Flat  
9 at the four crosses, that holy ground. I cannot bear the  
10 thought of the decimation of Oak Flat, because this is where I  
11 was touched by spirit of God after a lifetime of searching for  
12 that in churches. I cannot begin to imagine the trauma and pain  
13 this loss will bring upon my indigenous brothers and sisters, as  
14 it will be a thousand times worse than my own.

15 I have 53 seconds. I would like to say I have  
16 been a USDA employee for 27 years. I -- my heart goes out to  
17 you, to the people of the Forest Service, because I know what  
18 they're dealing with. Comes from the top down, and you do what  
19 you're told. That's just the way it is. I retired so I can  
20 fight this battle, and I have dedicated my life to fighting it  
21 throughout Arizona.

22 Thank you.

23 ROY C. CHAVEZ: Roy Chavez from Superior.

24 I just want to thank Forest Service for putting  
25 this together, the public hearings that are required. There

1 will be one on Thursday in Globe, I think at Desert -- Desert  
2 Mountain or something like that.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: High Desert.

4 ROY C. CHAVEZ: High Desert. So it will be the  
5 same time, the same setup, if you'd like to participate in that.  
6 And there will be another scheduled for Queen Valley.

7 But I just wanted to remind you all that the  
8 volumes that people are talking about here of the studies are  
9 just -- they're humongous, and we're asking for a continuance of  
10 the -- we're asking for an extension of the community comment  
11 period. And so this is an opportunity for all people, not those  
12 of us that live in the mining region all of our lives, but  
13 everywhere in this country, because the legislation as presented  
14 and the movement forward on this legislation sets a hell of a  
15 precedent for the acquisition of public lands, people.

16 And it just -- as I said before, the NEPA process  
17 is something that is legally set up to handle this and answer  
18 the questions of the character of the project in the best  
19 interest of the public. So elected officials could make that  
20 determination with this information that we're gathered with  
21 today, and I guarantee you that any senator or representative  
22 from five to ten years ago had no clue what this information was  
23 going to be like, I guarantee you, including the honorable  
24 Senator McCain.

25 I just want to share with you, the concerned

1 citizens. We have these 3D scale models that are to scale by  
2 the mining plan of operation that was submitted by Resolution  
3 Copper. We invite you to come over and take a look at these  
4 models, because the placards and the posters and everything are  
5 fine, but this is an actual drawdown of the 3D concept of the  
6 land that would be impacted. Unfortunately, we do not have a  
7 Skunk Camp site, because that is an alternative, but we do have  
8 the size of the tailings in different perspectives that will go  
9 somewhere if this project gets approved. Again, welcome you to  
10 come by and talk with us. Feel free to answer -- ask any  
11 questions you'd like, and we'll try to do the best to address  
12 them, but please come and visit us. Take a look at these models  
13 that we've had for -- we've been invited by Forest Service for  
14 other public meetings to show these models.

15 Thank you, guys.

16 JOE VILLEGAS: You know my name. Joe Villegas.

17 Out at Copper Creek, up that way by Mammoth, they  
18 went in up by the old mine site, and there was this one mountain  
19 where they found a lot of ore, but it was way too deep to mine  
20 it. So what they were going to do is going to go in and drill  
21 and -- and it -- blow it up and extract the copper. And the way  
22 they were going to extract the copper, they put acid in the  
23 ground where they dynamite -- dynamited at, and that water was  
24 supposed to run down to one of their ponds that they had with  
25 the acid that they put. They said, "No. We won't get no acid



1 in Copper Creek." There was acid in Copper Creek three miles  
2 down from there. It turned gray. It turned green, the water,  
3 and it looked like turquoise, and that's the way -- that's the  
4 way it was from then when they mined up there, and basically,  
5 the same thing that how they want to mine here, that's what's  
6 going to happen up there, besides losing the water.

7 Thank you.

8 MICHAEL GETTENS: Do you know of any other  
9 chemicals they're going to be using?

10 JOE VILLEGAS: I know it was acid that they used  
11 for using -- to pipe down here to Copper Creek, and it was  
12 supposed to go to this one particular area, and nothing wasn't  
13 supposed to get into the Copper Creek. Well, it did go into  
14 Copper Creek, because we seen it. The animals couldn't drink  
15 it. None of the birds, deer, none of those couldn't even drink  
16 the water anymore. They could drink it higher up, but far down  
17 below, they couldn't drink it. Even the people in Mammoth, they  
18 couldn't drink their water or anything. They had to buy water.  
19 And their teeth would turn brown. I know that, too. But this  
20 is all what everybody has to look from first before they do  
21 anything, and I know.

22 MICHAEL GETTENS: Thank you.

23 JIM OHL: Hi. I'm Jim Ohl again, and the reason  
24 I'm back up here again is because one of the fellow speakers  
25 brought up a point that I had never even thought about, and that

1 was the dam that holds all this stuff in place.

2           A couple years ago I was speaking with a fellow  
3 that I met who was a vulcanologist, and he and a team of five  
4 people had done a study over a five- to seven-year period of the  
5 peaks on the other side of Highway 77, going up over the hill to  
6 Globe. And he said that according to their studies, that some  
7 of those peaks had risen 37 feet over a five-year period. Now,  
8 those peaks that he was talking about are within sight of this  
9 project. When you're up there, you can see the project site.

10           And also, I get around that area a lot, and I  
11 know a lot of people up there. One of the old fellows that's  
12 80-some years old that still goes to all the mines -- he walks  
13 every day, and he goes up to the mines, all the way almost up to  
14 that site, and he was telling me -- he's an old Spanish  
15 fellow -- and he was telling me that one of the mines he goes in  
16 up there, he says, "Oh, I cannot go in there very far." I said,  
17 "Well, how come?" His name's Chuy. I said, "How come, Chuy?"  
18 He said, "Well, I go in there a little ways," he said, "there's  
19 sulfur smoke coming out of the mine, coming out of there. It's  
20 a vent. It's a volcanic vent, and it gets a lot of sulphur gas  
21 coming up out of that vent." And he says, "I can't go in  
22 there." He says, "I'll die."

23           The main thing I'm bringing that up for is have  
24 any of these people at Resolution or some of you folks at Forest  
25 Service or whatever, has anybody taken into account the

1 possibility of a seismic situation caused by volcanic action?  
2 Because if this old Spanish fellow has been around here for  
3 50-some years, finds a fumarole vent in one of the mines up in  
4 that area, then who says there's not a possibility of something  
5 happening?

6                   In a situation like this with a dam face that's  
7 holding back that much waste, we can't afford the slightest bit  
8 of miscalculation, because I live downstream, and so do a lot of  
9 the people in this room live downstream. So maybe checking  
10 for -- you know, with vulcanologists and people like that who've  
11 had situations or studies, find out if there is a problem with  
12 this. Because I'm not so much against the project. I'm against  
13 the possibility of it failing, and there's a heck of a lot of  
14 difference, you know, and that's just what I wanted to bring up.  
15 Somebody needs to mention these things so that they can be  
16 addressed if they have not already been addressed, and something  
17 like that, I suspect, maybe has not been addressed.

18                   Thank you very much for your time.

19                   (Hearing comments concluded at 7:06 p.m.)

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