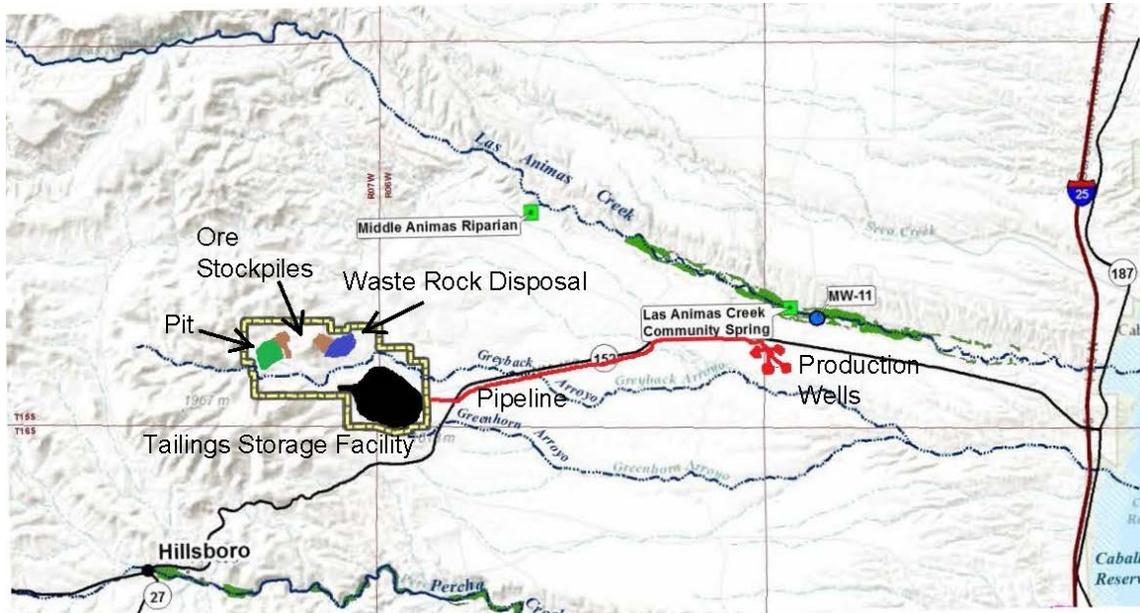


# Copper Flat Mine Operating Permit Hearing

**Tell the Mining and Minerals Division to deny the permit**

*(the link takes you to Gila Resources Information Project's Action Page)*



The *Mining and Minerals Division* of the Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department is holding a public hearing on the mine operating permit for the Copper Flat Mine in Hillsboro.

**October 23 - 24, 2018** (October 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> if needed)

9:00 am – 7:00 pm each day

Albert J Lyons Event Center

2953 S Broadway Street / **Truth or Consequences**

**Public Comment can be made each day during breaks in technical testimony.**

Any interested persons may provide verbal or written comments at the public hearing and/or submit written comments to the MMD Director.

**The public comment period closes immediately after the public hearing, so you should submit comments by the 24th.**

**You can submit comments to:**

Director, Mining and Minerals Division  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
1220 S. St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe NM 87505

Or Email: [EMNRD-MMD.Director@state.nm.us](mailto:EMNRD-MMD.Director@state.nm.us)

For More Information, Contact Max Yeh: [maxyeh@windstream.net](mailto:maxyeh@windstream.net)

**Mining & Minerals Division (MMD) Mine Operating Permit**  
***MMD Should Place Strong Conditions on the Permit***

- **The Mine’s Water Use Would Seriously Damage Sierra County and Beyond** – NM Copper Corporation (NMCC) says it needs up to 6,100 acre feet per year (afy) of fresh water.
  - NMCC has water rights for only 900 afy, which is insufficient to operate and properly close the mine.
  - Pumping up to 6,100 afy would lower the water table around the mine site. This will seriously drain and damage local streams important for wildlife, residential water supplies in the Hillsboro and Arrey area, and farming water supplies.
  - Pumping up to 6,100 afy would reduce flow in the Rio Grande.
- **There Is No “Self-Sustaining Ecosystem”** – The mine permit will not lead to a “self-sustaining ecosystem” as required after the mine closes. The pit lake has no provision to reduce toxicity sufficient to allow use by wildlife that will be drawn to the water. The waste rock piles have no liners, which could mean constant acid drainage from that site. As proposed, the mining operation will need *perpetual maintenance and treatment*, which is not allowed under the Mining Act.
- **Financial Assurance** – The proposed financial assurance in the mine permit is insufficient to cover the costs of long-term monitoring and maintenance of post-mining site reclamation. NMED has said they want at least a 100-year period of post-mining monitoring and maintenance at the site, but so far, NM Copper Corporation and its foreign owners want just 25 years.
- **NM Environment Department Determination** – NMED is required to provide MMD with a determination that the mine *as proposed* will meet Water Quality Act requirements, but NMED has not yet made that determination. NMED’s draft discharge permit as a whole is inadequate. Unless NMED revises its permit, it cannot determine that the mine will meet the requirements of the Water Quality Act.
- **Best Management Practices** – MMD needs to place permit conditions requiring the most appropriate technology and best management practices to limit dust, light, and noise, as well as the most appropriate technology and best management practices to protect human health and safety, the environment, wildlife, and domestic animals.
- **Transport Trucks Would Severely Damage Highway 152** – Hwy 152 does not have the substructure required for the weight of a daily stream of heavy ore trucks on its surface. The NM Highway Department does not have the funds to make up the difference between actual cost for repairs and the NMCC contribution to costs.
- **The Promise of Jobs For the Unemployed of Sierra County is Fake** –NMCC’s jobs claims are misleading. A provisional water contract commits NMCC to hire outside Sierra County first, and some jobs require skills and training that mean they will likely go to non-locals. Mining-related jobs would provide a short-term boost to the local economy – potentially much shorter than NMCC’s projected 10-12 years of operation depending on market conditions. When the mine inevitably closes, the mining jobs and all the related businesses will go away, causing even more disruption. Sierra County can build a more sustainable future.