



## SKY ISLAND ALLIANCE

Protecting our Mountain Islands  
and Desert Seas

## ROSEMONT MINE Tips on Preparing Comments

### **The agency is required by law to respond to all “substantive” comments.**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that the lead agency – in this case, the US Forest Service – prepare responses to all substantive comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) during the public comment period and include those responses in the Final EIS. The more specific and focused your comments are, the more detailed the response must be from the agency.

### **The more specific you can make your comments, the better.**

More specific comments are the most desirable and will require a more detailed response to the agency. An example would be: “I am concerned that the traffic analysis in the DEIS is inadequate because it only focuses on impacts to Highway 83 and does not consider impacts to Interstate 10 from the added truck traffic resulting from mining operations. The agency needs to analyze the additional truck traffic on I-10.”

Comments that simply say “I am concerned about water quality” or “I am opposed to this project” will not, by themselves, require a response from the agency.

### **Include the specific sections, pages and/or topics you are referencing in the DEIS.**

To the extent you can, direct your comments to specific sections, pages or topics in the DEIS, recognizing that some comments may be addressing missing or incomplete information, or even missing topics, that you feel should be addressed.

**Make your letter personal!** Your personal connection to the Santa Rita Mountains is an incredibly important part of your comment letter. How will you be personally impacted if this proposal moves forward? This is a great way to start your letter and to frame the rest of your comments, and will help get the agency’s attention.

### **Questions to consider as you draft your comments:**

- Does the EIS provide an adequate discussion of the impacts on a particular resource (air, water, traffic, vegetation, etc.)? What did the agency miss in its analysis?
- Should the discussion of a particular impact cover a broader geographic area? A longer timeframe? Identify how you think the analysis should be changed?
- Are the conclusions about the level of impact on a particular resource well justified? If not, why not? What more is needed to reach a sound conclusion?
- Is mitigation for each resource adequately identified and described? Will it adequately address the impacts? Why not?
- If you sent in scoping comments, does the EIS adequately address the issues you raised in those comments?

**To view or download the DEIS: [www.RosemontEIS.us](http://www.RosemontEIS.us)**

## Comments must be submitted on or before January 18, 2012

### Where to Submit Comments

- **Telephone:** Brief oral comments can be made by calling toll-free (888) 654-6646.
- **Online:** Comments may be submitted electronically on the project website at [www.RosemontEIS.us](http://www.RosemontEIS.us) by following the link to "Comment Here."
- **Mail:** Written comments may be mailed to: Rosemont Comments, P.O. Box 4207, Logan, UT 84323.
- **Fax:** Written comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (435) 750-8799; the subject line should include the words "Rosemont Copper Project DEIS"
- **Email:** to [CoronadoNF@RosemontEIS.us](mailto:CoronadoNF@RosemontEIS.us); the subject line should include the words "Rosemont Copper Project DEIS;" email attachments should be in Word (.docx), rich-text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf).
- For questions or special needs regarding the public meetings or the comment period call (520) 388-8300 voice or (520) 388-8304 TTY.
- Additional information about the Rosemont Copper Project DEIS is available online at [www.RosemontEIS.us](http://www.RosemontEIS.us)

### Comment Letter Template

January 18, 2012

Rosemont Comments  
PO Box 4207  
Logan, UT 84323

To Whom It May Concern:

"These comments are being submitted in response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Rosemont Copper Project."

**Start with something personal:** "I am a resident of Tucson/Vail/Sahuarita/Green Valley;" "I often visit the Santa Rita Mountains for the purposes of hiking/camping/hunting/mountain biking;" "I own a well in the area;" "I own property in the area;" "I regularly travel on Highway 83;" etc.

**Identify your areas of concern:** There are many topics covered in the DEIS, so the best strategy is to pick two or three on which to focus your comments. The Rosemont Mine Impacts: DEIS Executive Summary Highlights handout is a good starting point, and includes page numbers in the DEIS for each topic that will help direct you to the most relevant parts of the document.

**Explain why the DEIS does not adequately address your concerns:** It will be helpful to read through the relevant sections of the DEIS and see if the agency's analysis of the impacts to the resources you are most concerned about are adequately addressed in the DEIS. If they are not, let agency know.

Sincerely,

**To view or download the DEIS: [www.RosemontEIS.us](http://www.RosemontEIS.us)**