



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 20, 2010

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: Rosemont Air Quality Permit Application

On August 19, 2010, beginning at approximately 11:00 AM, continuing through 2:30 PM, and recurring today, my office received numerous telephone calls regarding Rosemont Copper's application for an air quality permit from the County associated with their proposed mining operations in the Santa Rita Mountains. The callers requested the County approve Rosemont's air quality permit application and not delay or reject it.

Under Title 17 of the Pima County Code, the Pima County Air Quality Control District regulates air pollution in Pima County. Arizona law and the Pima County Code give the Air Quality Control Officer the authority to grant or deny applications for air quality permits. Under County Code, the District operates in the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality, and the Control Officer is also the Director of the Department. The Pima County Board of Supervisors is the Board of the District. Since the District is still processing and evaluating the Rosemont submittal, we were somewhat perplexed about the receipt of these calls. I asked staff to inquire of the callers from where they heard the County had taken such an action and why they were requested to contact my office. The answer most often heard was that an individual from Rosemont Copper told them to call my office and ask that the air quality permit be approved.

During a conversation with one caller, my staff reported that a Rosemont representative broke into the call, indicated they were having technical difficulty, and cut off the caller. The individual then returned the interrupted call, and it was indicated a Rosemont representative had asked him to contact the County.

Information provided by callers indicates the calls were being directed by "Robert of Rosemont Copper" calling from a telephone with the identifier 202-3068, identified as Direct Research. An internet search of "Direct Research" tracks to Direct Marketing Services; hence, Direct Research is Direct Marketing Services of Arizona, LLC (1001 E. 17th Street, Suite 202, Tucson, Arizona) or an affiliate of same. In fact, one caller indicated that "Direct Research" and "202-3068" appeared on his caller identification display.

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It appears the telephone calls were orchestrated by Rosemont Copper, which seems peculiar, since their permit submission is still in the processing phase to determine its completeness for review by the Air Quality Control District. We will continue this analysis before making any determination. Once a determination has been made by the Control Officer, the determination is appealable to the Air Quality Hearing Board.

Staff is also currently evaluating the air quality permit submittal with other information submitted by Rosemont Copper to the United States Forest Service for the Environmental Impact Statement and permitting of the proposed Rosemont Copper mining operation. The results of our initial permit application completeness review should be available within the next two weeks.

The purpose of this memorandum is to alert the Board to the inquiries by the public regarding this matter and inquire as to whether the Board received similar inquiries. We have the telephone numbers of those individuals who agreed to leave such information for reference. Once we have complete information regarding the adequacy of the Rosemont application and our proposed action regarding same, we will communicate this determination to those who have inquired about the permit. If the Board desires to forward information regarding calls you may have received regarding this matter, we would be happy to communicate with these individuals as well.

CHH/mjk

c: Ursula Kramer, Director, Environmental Quality
Nicole Fyffe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator