



**Media Release
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Construction delay opens door for federal regulators to reject Rosemont's permits

(Tucson, Ariz.) Hudbay Mineral's decision Wednesday to delay construction of the Rosemont copper mine underscores why the proposed open-pit mine is an economically unreliable and environmentally destructive project that should never be constructed.

"Now is the time for federal regulators to stop this speculative and damaging project," said Gayle Hartmann, president of Save the Scenic Santa Ritas. "Regulators have the law and the science on their side to deny the permits needed to build this mine."

"Project proponents have for nearly 10 years offered rosy economic forecasts in a deceptive effort to obscure the environmental devastation that would result if the mine is built."

"Hudbay's decision to delay construction of Rosemont proves this is not an economically sustainable project suitable for 21st Century economic development in southern Arizona."

"Rosemont would have devastating impacts on our air quality and water supplies and the public land upon which much of our billion-dollar tourism sector depends. The project also threatens a dozen threatened and endangered species, including the only known wild jaguar in the country."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is reviewing Hudbay's application for a Section 404 Clean Water Act permit that is needed to build the mine. Both the Corps and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which has veto authority over the 404 permit, have roundly criticized Rosemont's plans as insufficient to mitigate the project's damage to the region's watershed.

At the same time, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is preparing a biological opinion on the mine's impact on threatened and endangered species. The biological opinion is needed before the U.S. Forest Service can make a final decision on whether to allow the mine to proceed.

Rosemont also faces challenges at the state level. A Maricopa County Superior Court judge tossed out the state's approval of Rosemont's air pollution permit last year. Hudbay is appealing.

Hudbay states in its 4th Quarter financial report that it is delaying Rosemont construction because of "lower expected copper prices."

Hudbay's decision comes after many ambitious and overly optimistic pronouncements regarding the mine's start date from both Hudbay and the project's previous owner, Augusta Resource.

Augusta stated in 2008 that it would take 12-18 months to receive the necessary regulatory approvals to "move forward" on the project. As recently as late January, a Hudbay official said

the company hoped to begin construction this year.

The Rosemont project calls for a half-mile deep, mile rim-to-rim open pit mine that will dump potentially toxic mine waste piled 600-800 ft. high on the Coronado National Forest. The mine would be built near the top of a watershed providing a significant amount of the groundwater recharge to the Tucson basin.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department said the Rosemont mine “will render the northern portion of the Santa Rita Mountains virtually worthless as wildlife habitat and as a functioning ecosystem, and thus also worthless for wildlife recreation.”

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas is a non-profit, community organization working to protect the Santa Rita and Patagonia Mountains from environmental degradation caused by mining and mineral exploration activities. For more information, go to ScenicSantaRitas.org, RosemontMineTruth.com, [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).