

Oak Flat questions for BHP 2021 AGM

I'm Henry Munoz, Chair of the Concerned Citizens & Retired Miner's Coalition and I've lived in Superior, AZ, all my life. I have 23 years' underground mining experience working at the Magma mine at Oak Flat until the 1982 closure and at the BHP San Manuel block cave mine for 14 years. With my experience with block cave mining, I know the devastating effects your proposed mine would have on my town and the region. Your proposal would destroy the surface of Oak Flat, and both drain and pollute the deep aquifers around Superior, and the water supply of farmers and residents of the valley east of Phoenix. Arizona is in the middle of a 22-year drought and the water supplies critical to Arizona will be curtailed starting next year. A recent report commissioned by the San Carlos Apache Tribe shows that the Resolution Copper mine proposal would use 250 billion gallons of water as drought ravages Arizona.

Based on my experience with block caving in Arizona, the depth of this deposit, and the problems you are having with building the block cave at Oyu Tolgoi, your design at that depth won't work. If you destroy Oak Flat, you will destroy our town's chance to build a recreation based sustainable economy. Will you abandon the project so that we may enjoy Oak Flat and prosper for many generations to come? If BHP really needs additional copper from Arizona, why don't you reopen the San Manuel mine (which had 30 years of copper still underground), instead to destroying Oak Flat?

I'm Roger Featherstone, Director of the Arizona Mining Reform Coalition.

I have a question about BHP's involvement with Rio Tinto in the proposed Resolution Copper mine project.

BHP and Rio Tinto are planning a large underground block cave mine, an hour east of Phoenix, Arizona, that would destroy Oak Flat, render permanently unusable 7,000 acres under a toxic tailings dump, and send mineral concentrates out of the US for final processing in another country, most likely, China.

As you know, there a number of problems with this proposed mine because Oak Flat is federally owned and is sacred to Native Americans and is also an ecological and recreational haven.

Resolution Copper's plan to destroy Oak Flat will fail. Moving forward with this experiment is bad enough, but destroying Oak Flat is beyond reason. After your majority partner, Rio Tinto, blew up the sacred rock shelters at Juukan Gorge, you promised never to do it again. If your words mean anything, you have no choice but to abandon the project. You would suck our water dry to export unfinished concentrate abroad during a decade's long drought with projected water shortages starting next year. You would devastate a people's culture and religion. You would destroy a valley with a mountain of toxic tailings that would cover the city of London 5' deep. The project would use the same amount of water that would supply Tempe,

AZ, with 180,000 residents. You would deprive Arizona of ½ billion dollars of revenue earmarked for educating our future students.

When BHP got involved in this destructive project, it turned its back on viable mining operations it owns (or used to own) in Arizona.

In light of this, are you and your shareholders comfortable that your investment in this ill-advised project will be profitable and a wise and socially responsible investment?

And, will BHP drop its interest in the Oak Flat proposal and focus on better alternatives?