



Copper World Fact Sheet & Talking Points

Updated June 6, 2025

In July 2023, Canadian-owned Hudbay Minerals, Inc. released a “Preliminary Feasibility Study” for the Copper World Mining project in the northern ridge of the Santa Rita mountains in Pima County. The new plan presented a 20-year project with an initial capital investment of \$1.2 billion¹.

Number and size of pits

- **Number of pits.** Hudbay’s 20-year project would dig 2 pits on the west side, 1 pit on the ridgeline, and 1 on the east side of the Santa Rita Mountains.
- **Size of pits.** The east side pit, formerly called the Rosemont Mine pit, would be about 1 and ½ miles in diameter with a depth one-half mile. The other three pits would each be a little over a mile in diameter and a little over the height of a 43-story building.

Follow the money to Canada!

- **Copper concentrate will be sent overseas.** For at least the first four years, all copper ore will be sent overseas in the form of copper concentrate for refining, most likely to China. Copper World may begin refining onsite in Year 5, but much of the concentrate will still be sent overseas.
- **Profits will go to Canadian company Hudbay.** The 1872 Mining Act exempts copper mining from paying any royalties to the U.S. government, unlike coal mining and oil and gas production.

Copper World will take huge amounts of water

- **Water use.** Hudbay’s current water permit from the State Department of Water Resources allows it to pump 2 billion gallons per year from wells near Sahuarita, enough water to support 20,000 households. There is no state limit on how much water Copper World can pump, and we expect water use may double by Year 4, up to more than 4 billion gallons per year.
- **A toxic lake.** The East/Rosemont pit would penetrate the aquifer. Once mining is finished, the pit would become a lake filled with toxic water creating a huge and permanent hazard to birds and other wildlife.

Tailings dumps are a threat to water and air

- **Tailings are toxic dust produced by processing raw ore.** 500-foot-tall tailings piles will be less than 1,000 feet away from homes in Corona de Tucson.

¹ Data based on Hudbay’s Preliminary Economic Assessment, May 2022, and Hudbay’s Pre-Feasibility Study, July 2023 (released in September 2023).

- **Toxic water may leach from tailings piles.** In 2024 ADEQ granted Copper World its Water Quality Permit, which did not require liners under the tailings piles, even though liners are considered best practice to avoid contaminating groundwater. Some seepage of toxic chemicals into groundwater is almost certain.
- **Toxic dust will blow from tailings piles.** Toxic dust containing lead and arsenic will blow onto houses and schools. The Copper Ridge Elementary School in Corona de Tucson is 1.4 miles from one planned tailings pile. Studies have found that toxic metals can show up in plants and soil near mines as far as 30 miles from a copper mine.

Copper World will hurt the Pima County economy

- **Studies show that communities with mines have less economic vitality than communities without mines.** Communities with mines do poorly because the mines harm other economic sectors that are more important.
- **The outdoor recreation and tourism industries will suffer.** Copper World would destroy recreation in the northern Santa Ritas, including the Arizona Trail, which will seriously harm a major regional economic driver of tourism.
- **Property values will drop.** Our Economic Impact Study report projects a \$100 million drop in housing values in Corona de Tucson alone.
- **Fewer people may choose to retire in Pima County.** A 2.7 percent decrease in the number of people moving to Pima County would offset all Copper World jobs.

Hudbay traffic will threaten safety and quality of life

- **Traffic through downtown Sahuarita will be terrible.** Although Hudbay hasn't released a traffic plan, our estimate is that 40,000 truck trips per year will travel along Sahuarita Road to I-19, past Sahuarita schools and the library and municipal buildings. These trucks will be hauling copper concentrate to go overseas, sulfuric acid, and explosives. Traffic will include up to 1,200 workers per day commuting to and from the mine during construction, and 500 per day after. Spills and accidents are inevitable.

Current legal actions

- **Illegal tailings pipeline right-of-way.** On Sept. 9, 2024 a judge ruled in favor of SSSR and Farmers Investment Company against the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) for breaking the state's Open Meetings law when the department gave Copper World a right-of-way to run tailings pipelines across the state's Santa Rita Experimental Range. ASLD subsequently reaffirmed the right-of-way.

On Nov. 13, 2024, we sued ASLD to completely invalidate the tailings right-of-way across the Santa Rita Experimental Range because state law specifies that the range must be used for rangeland and ecological research, not industrial pipelines.

- **Improperly granted Class II Air Quality Permit.** On Jan. 2, 2025, ADEQ granted Copper World a Class II Air Quality Permit based on incorrect calculations that underestimated the amount of air pollution that the mine would produce. This pollution will include dust from tailings piles contaminated with lead and arsenic. On Jan. 31, 2025, SSSR, the Center for Biological Diversity and Farmers Investment Co. appealed the permit.

Copper World Mining Complex

Hudbay Minerals

