

# LARON

10/6/2011

From:  
Glenn Thoroughman, President/CEO, Laron  
2025 W. Highway Drive  
Tucson AZ 85705

To:  
Ursula Kramer,  
Director of Pima County Department of Environmental Quality  
Tucson AZ 85705

Subj:  
Unreasonable Delays in the Rosemont Copper Air Permitting Process

Dear Ms. Kramer:

My company, Laron, employs over 60 employees who work and live in Pima County. Those employees all pay taxes, they all support Pima County businesses, they all work to support their communities and they all vote. Laron pays taxes and Laron works to be a good corporate citizen in the Tucson community.

Laron is an employee-owned industrial service company. Our company supports industries of all kinds. When industries are doing well, Laron does well. Conversely, when industries are doing poorly, Laron is forced to follow. Right now, Laron's future is not bright. We need work. Laron is not a company who wants a favor or a handout. We believe that when obstacles pop up in our path we should solve the problem and continue our work. We have earned our way for the last 36 years. We only want the opportunity to continue in that way. Hence, I send this letter to you.

We have worked in mines all over the Western United States. There is no doubt that some of the mines in which we have worked are environmental disasters. But, there are also mines where we see behaviors and environmental attitudes which set a standard for even the "greenest" of industries. Our company has watched closely as Rosemont has planned and implemented their operation in Pima County. We have seen a commitment to the environment, to the concerns of the environmentally sensitive community, to an operational plan that minimizes and in many cases removes the environmental risk and which restores the property to a condition that leaves our county with the desert beauty which we all appreciate.

So please review these facts Ursula. Our county is awash with under-employed and unemployed folks. County revenues are down. Pima County Supervisors have just approved a tax rate increase in order to address steadily declining property values/tax revenues which are being driven by the dismal employment situation in our county. Our company, like hundreds of other companies, has been badly impacted by the overall slowdown in business and will, if things don't begin to improve very soon, be forced to

add to the severity of the unemployment situation. To say our situation is “Urgent” would be an understatement.

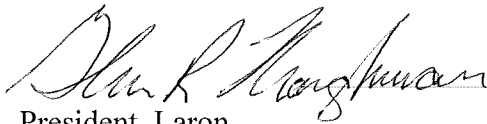
Rosemont Copper is a business that has promised (and delivered) a chance for a large number of Pima County businesses to grow and hire additional employees. Rosemont has “played by the rules” and has satisfied the multitude of requirements which have been presented to them. They have committed and set aside huge sums of capital for the development, operation and restoration of their property. The legitimate concerns have been addressed and resolved. But now, according to Paragraph 32 in the Statement of Basis for Denial, it appears that the Control Officer’s (your’s Ursula) decision to deny is based on a vaguely supported argument that seems much more of a bureaucrat’s obfuscated opinion than a clearly stated and/or understood requirement.

Laron and so many other companies are fighting for our very survival in Pima County. We should not have to also fight “City Hall”. You are a public servant who works for a group of elected officials. The majority elected those officials and as the representative of elected officials, I would hope that you are speaking for the best interests of the county and the majority of our folks. I have been to the town hall meetings and I have seen the same small group of “anti-everything” folks present their same unsupported arguments at several meetings. I would hope for you to be apolitical and encourage the development of new jobs, more revenues, restoration of real estate values and the means to better support the programs and needs of our county. Instead, by my observation, you are acting in the role of political activist using the authority of your office to appease the narrow self-serving interests of a small but very vocal minority.

Ms. Kramer, I urge you to consider the thousands of individuals to whom Rosemont Copper will represent a chance of recovery. I urge you to reevaluate the damage that is being done by your decisions to delay the permitting process. Rosemont Copper has demonstrated more commitment to Corporate Citizenship than any company I have ever seen. To be sure, the activist groups who have fought the development of Rosemont will leave a legacy in Pima County. But unlike the Rosemont legacy, it will not be a legacy of job creation and economic development.

Please reconsider your position!

Sincerely



Alan R. Langhman

President, Laron