

Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States
Remote Legislative Hearing - Cisco WebEx
April 13, 2021
1:00 p.m.

Legislative Hearing on [H.R. 1884](#) (Rep. Raúl Grijalva), *To repeal section 3003 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, and for other purposes.*

Questions from Rep. Grijalva for Dr. Wells, of L. Everett & Associates

1. Your testimony quotes the FEIS that as a result of this project's groundwater pumping in the East Salt River Valley that the land there will actually subside 24 to 52 inches. Can you explain what this will mean for infrastructure in the area and the aquifer?
2. You note in your testimony that FEIS states that as a result of groundwater pumping for the mine and other known demands the groundwater levels will drop in some areas by 450 feet. What will this mean for the future of the people who live and work in this area?
3. According to the FEIS, the dewatering and ground pumping of the mine will result in impacts on at least 18 groundwater dependent ecosystems. Can you explain what this will mean in practice on the ground for local habitat? And can you talk about why the mitigation measures proposed are inadequate?
4. The Resolution Copper Mine needs at least 775,000 acre feet of water in order to be able to slurry both ore concentrate X miles and the toxic waste X miles through pipelines that need to be built across parts of Tonto National Forest not in the land exchange and other lands. This toxic waste will be dumped into tailings waste storage facility that will ultimately cover nearly 4000 acres and stand nearly 500 feet tall. Can you explain more about the possible water quality problems as a result of this massive toxic dump?