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Question Regarding Alternative Site and Configuration Evaluations for the Proposed EValution Cobalt Processing Facility

Maria Coffee <mariacoffee99@gmail.com>

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To: Contact@azdeq.gov, "vlimmeroth@juno.com" <vlimmeroth@juno.com>

Bcc: permit-wells@azwater.gov, developmentservices@yumacountyaz.gov, azgs-info@email.arizona.edu

Dear Sir or Madam,

we understand that the proposed cobalt processing facility benefits from existing infrastructure, including rail access, utilities, transportation corridors, and other economic considerations. I also recognize that these factors are important to project feasibility.

Because the proposed site is located within the Wellton-Mohawk alluvial basin, **where groundwater resources support agriculture and groundwater systems are known to exist**, we are interested in understanding whether hydrogeologic factors and long-term spill remediation considerations were evaluated during the site selection process.

Specifically:

- Were comparative hydrogeologic evaluations performed to determine whether alternative locations with deeper groundwater, lower permeability soils, or reduced hydraulic connection to regional aquifers might provide greater protection and facilitate easier remediation in the event of an accidental release?
- Were alternative sites considered elsewhere in Yuma County where groundwater vulnerability may be lower?
- Was any analysis performed regarding whether the highest-risk chemical processing operations could be located on a separate site while maintaining rail access, warehousing, storage, and administrative functions at the current location?
- If alternative locations or configurations were considered and rejected, are there reports or studies available that explain the reasons for those decisions?

We ask these questions because many industrial systems separate functions for logistical, economic, safety, or environmental reasons. Therefore, I am interested in understanding whether alternative configurations and hydrogeologic conditions were evaluated as part of the planning process.

If such studies, reports, environmental analyses, or supporting documents exist, we would appreciate being directed to the appropriate documents or agencies responsible for them. If another agency or organization would be better suited to answer these questions, we would appreciate any guidance.

Our intent is simply to better understand the planning process and to accurately document publicly available information.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Maria Coffee
Velma Limmeroth
Yuma County Residents
Yuma, Arizona