



Volume 6 September 2011

968 E Hunt Hwy
Queen Creek Arizona 85143
480-987-9870
www.johnsonutilities.com

Over the past several months Johnson Utilities and other concerned Florence-area residents and business leaders have watched with increasing concern as foreign investors proceed with plans to open a copper mine within a mile of existing homes and a half mile of future planned residential homes. The mine's proponent, Curis Resources, Ltd., proposes to recover underground copper by intentionally injecting acid into the subsurface. The process, called in-situ recovery, is typically utilized for mining uranium, frequently with bad environmental results.

We have hired a team of experts who have studied this proposed project carefully, and firmly believe that a complex and risky mining operation should not be located so close to our drinking water supply. In our studies, we found there is no now way to eliminate the risk that the operation -- which Curis admits will impact certain areas of groundwater for decades -- will degrade the quality of the groundwater we all rely on for drinking. The fact is that Curis will be injecting a toxic acidic solution directly into the ore body that mixes with the aquifer used for regional drinking water purposes.

In order to extract the copper, Curis will inject a sulfuric acid solution to start the extraction process. While Curis states the solution is 99.7% water and .3% acid, consider this: it takes 5 pounds of acid to mobilize 1 pound of copper. Curis has said it will extract 1.24 billion pounds of copper from the mine -- meaning it will be injecting over 5 billion pounds of acid to get the expected amount of copper.

Furthermore, the acidic solution Curis proposes to inject into the subsurface will release other naturally occurring contaminants that would otherwise remain stable. Those contaminants include arsenic, heavy metals, sulfates, nitrates, and lead, to name only a few. In fact, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study of this very site concluded that the area to be mined contains radionuclides, naturally occurring radioactive materials. Needless to say, we think those materials are best left undisturbed. Curis has claimed that, after several decades of mining, it will be able to restore groundwater impaired by its operations to pre-mining conditions. But nobody else has been able to do this. After reviewing numerous US Geological Survey groundwater studies and data, we also discovered that no in-situ mine operator has ever been able to restore groundwater to pre-mining conditions after finishing the extraction process and work.

Friends and colleagues, this project is just not worth the risk to our water, let alone our economy. An economic study conducted by well-renowned economist Elliott Pollack demonstrates that the Town of Florence and the region stand to gain more economically by following the current general plan and continuing with residential and commercial development.

Our water is one of our most valuable resources here in the desert and it should and can be put to a safer and more productive use.

We can stop this risky project, but only if you speak up. The proposed Curis project cannot proceed without several government approvals, including a major amendment to the Florence zoning plan. Please take the time to attend the Planning and Zoning meeting listed below and/or contact your local elected officials at City Hall and voice your opposition to this risky mining project:

Mayor Kilvinger and City Council
TOWN OF FLORENCE
C/O MAYOR AND COUNCIL
P.O. Box 2670
Florence, Arizona 85132
mayor@florenceaz.gov
council@florenceaz.gov

1st Hearing with the Planning and Zoning Commission- September 15, 2011, at Anthem at Merrill Ranch Sun City Community Center, 3925 North Sun City Boulevard, Florence at 5:30 PM. Please make your opposition heard!



HELP US PROTECT OUR
WATER OUR FUTURE

please visit:

www.protectourwaterourfuture.com

State your opposition in writing today.
Email the Florence Council or send a letter in mail. You can
mail your letters opposed to Florence Copper Project to:

Mayor Kilvinger and City Council
TOWN OF FLORENCE
C/O MAYOR AND COUNCIL
P.O. Box 2670 Florence, Arizona 85132

You should also email them at:

Mayor Vicki Kilvinger: Mayor@florenceaz.gov
Councilwoman Barbara Brown: Council@florenceaz.gov
Councilman Thomas Celaya: Council@florenceaz.gov
Councilman Bill Hawkins: Council@florenceaz.gov
Councilman Arnie Raasch: Council@florenceaz.gov
Councilman Tom Smith: Council@florenceaz.gov
Councilwoman Vallarie Woolridge: Vallarie.Woolridge@florenceaz.gov

Email or call the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to tell them why you think the Florence Copper Project is bad for our environment.

Please contact Water Quality Division Director, Michael Fulton whose contact information is: (602) 771-2306 and e-mail is maf@azdeq.gov. Please reference application number 101704.

Email or call the Environmental Protection Agency to tell them why you think the Florence Copper Project is bad for our environment.

Please contact U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, Groundwater Office representative Nancy Rumrill at (415) 972-3293 or Rumrill.Nancy@epa.gov and reference permit request AZ 396000001.

Johnson Utilities Myths, Facts & Propaganda



Water Conservation Tips

- Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.
- Collect the water you use for rinsing fruits and vegetables, then reuse it to water houseplants.
- Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and you can save 140 gallons a week.
- Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the sprinkler heads in good shape.
- Consult with your local nursery for information on plant selection and placement for optimum outdoor water savings.
- Use a hose nozzle or turn off the water while you wash your car. You'll save up to 100 gallons every time.

Recent articles in the San Tan Valley Today Publications have misrepresented the activities and responsibilities of your water/waste water company, Johnson Utilities. Zach Richter of Today Publications wrote about sinkholes that have damaged streets and sidewalks in numerous locations in Pinal County subdivisions. Richter indicates approximately \$140,000 in repairs have been completed and that Pinal County is still engaged in discussion with Johnson Utilities and the local homebuilders regarding reimbursement for a portion of the costs.

Richter further states that Ninyo and Moore, a CA geotechnical and environmental science consultant company conducted tests in 2010 which pointed to the settlement of sewer line backfill as the cause of the sudden influx of sinkholes. Richter then states (erroneously) that these lines were installed by Johnson Utilities. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND PINAL COUNTY RECORDS PROVE THIS IS UNTRUE.

The sewer lines were installed by the developer of the subdivision, NOT Johnson Utilities. The lines are installed under an ADEQ (AZ Department of Environmental Quality) permit and a Pinal County permit issued to that developer (NOT Johnson Utilities). The lines and the backfill were then inspected by Pinal County. As-built drawings were submitted to ADEQ for final approval which was issued to the developer (NOT Johnson Utilities). After the installation of the sewer lines the road was constructed by the developer (NOT Johnson Utilities) per the Pinal County permit. During the construction process, the roads were tested for compaction and again inspected by Pinal County. After the compaction tests met the Pinal County standards, the developer was allowed to asphalt the road. Developers of these subdivisions (NOT Johnson Utilities) were required to post bonds that protected Pinal County against any failures. When Pinal County released these bonds, they accepted the responsibility to maintain the roads.

Richter goes on to state that the Ninyo & Moore report cites misplacement of sewer line backfill, which is constructed by the Developer/Builder, as the cause of damage to the roads and sidewalks based on their "opinion" and "understanding." Contrarily, a review of that report by Ricker, Atkinson, McBee, Morman & Associates, Inc. for Johnson Utilities states that "Without the benefit of the review of construction documents, and in lieu of a more extensive field investigation, it is difficult for us to agree with the general conclusion that the sewer line backfill was improperly placed."

Richter concludes by stating that Pinal County spokesperson Heather Murphy indicated that discussions between Pinal County, Johnson Utilities and local homebuilders have been ongoing and are moving forward. IF that is what Ms. Murphy said, she misspoke. Talks between the County and the developers (who placed the lines) and the local sewer utility, Johnson Utilities, have been ongoing.



This is going to be an amazing event to unite the community and raise much needed funds for our educational system!

A **FULL ON CARNIVAL** with "grown up" rides (kiddie ones too) and carnival games for FOUR (4) days!

The San Tan Valley Chamber of Commerce will also be sponsoring the **Business & Wellness Expo** that will take place on Saturday, October 29th from 11am-8pm! There will be a **PARADE** in the morning, an amazing Expo filled with businesses and health screenings throughout the day, followed by **TRICK OR TREATING** for kids of all sizes in the evening!

Thousands will be attending this event!

So SAVE THE DATE; help spread the word & we'll see you at the San Tan Valley Fall Festival!

Sign up for your vendor booth, become a sponsor or advertise your business in the San Tan Valley Fall Festival Program by going online to <http://www.SanTanChamber.com>, calling 480-626-7757 or emailing events@santanchamber.com.

Follow us on Facebook! [Facebook.com/SanTanChamber](https://www.facebook.com/SanTanChamber)

**SAVE THE DATE for the AMAZING ANNUAL
SAN TAN VALLEY FALL FESTIVAL!**

FOUR (4) amazing days of carnival rides, games and more -
October 27, 28, 29 and 30th in San Tan Valley!





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Our children Our Community Our Future
What's happening in The Villages . . .

We continue to work on bringing together individuals, businesses and community groups who share common interests. Our objectives are:

- Represent and advocate shared community values and standards
- Inform residents in a timely manner of important issues
- Collect and report factual data about neighborhood interests
- Create a clearinghouse for everyone's opinions - issues are publicized and openly discussed
- Communicate commonly held positions to government agencies
- Facilitate citizen involvement

We are working now to:

- Create a data base of resident email addresses to develop a communications system
- Implement notifications regarding topics of common interest, i.e. youth activities, governmental topics and roads and highways issues

The guest speaker at our next meeting will be Greg Stanley, Director – Pinal County Public Works. Greg will bring us up to date on the activities of his office and the impact of the new budget for 2012 on planned improvements to our roads and highways in San Tan Valley.

Wednesday, September 21, 2011
6:00 p.m.
Oasis Golf Clubhouse
5764 E. Hunt Highway

Free Pizza will be served. Everyone is invited!

Please respond to: ebabbitt@pcta.org / Ellen Babbitt (480) 707-3955 so we know how much pizza to buy.

Hosted by the Pinal County Taxpayers' Association – www.azpcta.org

Please visit our website for more information – www.azpcta.org

Thank you,
Michael Timm, PCTA President

Pinal County Taxpayers' Association is a non-profit, independent, non-partisan, volunteer 501 (c) (4) organization dedicated to promoting acceptable and efficient government and opposing unnecessary fees and taxes.



Grand
Re-Opening
October 15, 2011

www.clubatoasis.com

5764 East Hunt Hwy

Florence, Arizona
85132

480-888-8890

info@clubatoasis.com

Johnson Utilities

968 E Hunt Hwy

Queen Creek, Arizona
85143

480-987-9870

www.johnsonutilities.com

Start service or Cancel service online

FAQ's

Payment

Water Conservation tips

and so much more!



San Tan Valley Oktoberfest



Sat Sept 24, 2011
4-10 pm

2505 E Germann Rd off of Ironwood
Hosted by Combs HS Booster Club

An exciting family oriented festival featuring attractions for all ages including a rock wall, bungee trampoline, Velcro wall, jousting, bounce houses, and much more.

A Special Kinder Area for ages 6 and under
Operation Orange featuring the Phoenix Suns Gang
Autographs with a Cardinal Cheerleader

Great food, entertainment, games and vendors for shopping

Battle of the Bands contest \$ 300 first prize, \$ 200 second prize sign up now 480-269-5386

Come and meet Clifford the Big Red Dog, ride a pony and interact with our animals at our petting zoo.

Visit Zoupons on San Tan Valley Today to buy discounted attraction wristbands

Kinder \$ 4 pre sale \$ 6 at gate Premium \$ 8 pre sale \$ 12 at gate

Johnson Community Blood Drive

968-1 E Hunt Hwy Queen Creek AZ 85143

480-353-2770



Friday, September 16, 2011
11:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m

To schedule your appointment or for more information, contact the American Red Cross at 520-230-7295 or log on to www.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code: JohnsonLibrary

All presenting donors will receive a T-Shirt from the American Red Cross
Johnson Family Foundation will hold a raffle for a \$200.00 Walmart Gift Card
GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE!

Johnson Community Library

The Johnson Community Library would like to take this opportunity to thank the local businesses: Pizza Hut, Burger King, Sport Clips, and Fry's for their support and generous donations to our summer reading program. With your support our first summer reading program has been a successful one and we look forward to your future support.

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480-353-2770

Library Hours

Monday-Saturday

9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Reading Time

Tuesday's and Thursday's

11:00 AM - NOON

Arts-N-Crafts

Wednesday's and Friday's

NOON - 1:00 PM

Donations Welcomed

Arts-N-Crafts

Donations also

Welcomed