

From: [Kay Lockhart](#)
To: [Ferguson, Tracey](#)
Subject: Public Comment RE U.S. Copper Corp.
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My name is Leila (Kay) Lockhart. As a resident and property owner in Taylorsville, I am opposed to the granting of vested rights to U. S. Copper Corp, Engels-Superior for their mining in the Moonlight Valley area. I take this position not only as a local resident concerned about the outcome of this mining operation. Advocates for Feather River Watershed Alliance and their attorneys have presented ample background, both historical and legal, supporting the declination of the request to award Vested Rights. I share my viewpoint as a spectator to the activity and results of open pit mining in action.

I first became familiar with the Lavender Pit Mine in Bisbee in the late 1950's when I lived in Huachuca Vista, Arizona. Open pit mining was not a new idea to me as I had moved from Nevada where Kennecott Mine had a large copper mine operation in Ruth, Nevada. However, I was totally unprepared for the huge scope of an open pit in the middle of town. Phelps Dodge Corporation conceived and carried out this plan for making the previously unprofitable low-grade copper bearing rock of the area into a commercial success. The mine operation was only a few years old having started in 1950 but still the impact had covered several downtown blocks and was very deep. I visited the area again in 1970 when Lavender Pit was almost played out. Tons of copper were extracted from the mine, with tons of waste stripped from town center and much of the area was completely acid leached. Today Lavender Pit is an enormous hole surrounded by a wire fence. The only positive result is for tour operators who will take you on a "private" tour for a fee.

In 1960 I moved back to Nevada where open pit mining is not as common as tunneling. One of the largest is probably Robinson Mine in White Pine County. Robinson has been active since 1868 but did not become primarily open pit until 1949. Large-scale copper mining began in the district in 1907 and, with some hiatuses and several changes of ownership, continues. In September 1978, Kennecott closed its Nevada mines. [Magma Copper](#) bought Robinson in 1991 and began work on reopening the mine in 1994. In 1996, [BHP](#) acquired Magma, and operated Robinson from 1996 to 1999. The mine was closed in 1999 due to low copper prices. [Quadra Mining](#) bought Robinson in 2004, and reopened the mine later that year. In 2012, Quadra was acquired by [KGHM Polska Miedz](#), a large Polish copper producer. Over the years the changes in ownership and actual mining operation was a regulatory nightmare and has caused much instability in White Pine County. The Nevada open pit mines are primarily owned by Canadian companies so while the state is burdened with oversight the profits go out of the country and local/state taxes are diminished. Also the enforcement of any reclamation agreement is exacerbated.

From Anaconda to Bisbee, from Utah to significant areas of Nevada, there is extensive evidence of the effects of open pit mining operations with oversight and/or some degree of regulation. Greatly worsening the operation in question is that U. S.

Copper Corp is asking for mining rights void of any regulation by Plumas County.

There is ample documentation of the inconsistency between settled governance and the mining company's request for granting vested rights. Granting vested rights is giving up on any oversight protecting your constituency and providing accountability.

I appreciate the opportunity to give input on this important issue and trust that you will give some consideration to my experiences.