



PO Box 1934  
Flagstaff, AZ 86002  
[info@gcrg.org](mailto:info@gcrg.org)  
[www.gcrg.org](http://www.gcrg.org)

To: David Dunaway – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

From: Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc.

Re: Canyon Mine Aquifer Protection Permit

Date: August 30, 2019

Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc., (GCRG) founded in 1988, is unique in that it provides a unified voice for river guides and river runners in defense of the Colorado River through Grand Canyon. Our non-profit educational and environmental 501(c)(3) organization is comprised of over 1,700 individuals who are passionately dedicated to the continuing preservation of this national icon. Consequently, Grand Canyon River Guides' goals are to:

*Protect the Grand Canyon  
Provide the best possible river experience  
Set the highest standards for the guiding profession  
Celebrate the unique spirit of the river community*

**As a longstanding Colorado River stakeholder and Grand Canyon defender, Grand Canyon River Guides strongly urges you to deny the pending aquifer protection permit for Canyon Mine, close the mine, and commence cleanup.** The contaminated floodwaters are a grave risk to the underlying aquifer that feeds the life-giving seeps and springs of Grand Canyon National Park. With ever increasing volumes of groundwater pouring into the Canyon Mine in recent years, and no monitoring mechanism to determine whether the contaminated floodwaters are polluting the aquifer, the situation has become untenable.

Many experts agree that the potential for irreversible and lasting damage to the underlying aquifer is overwhelming. And may we stress again that this dire situation is playing out on the very doorstep of Grand Canyon -- one of the seven natural wonders of the world, the iconic crown jewel of our National Park system and World Heritage Site.

Again, please deny the pending permit for Canyon Mine, close the mine and commence cleanup, remediation, and other steps to ensure safety for the Grand Canyon region in perpetuity, rather than the grave risk it faces today. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Respectfully,

**Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc.**

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