

Earl Stewart, Forest Supervisor, US Forest Service  
Juneau Ranger District Personnel  
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30 December 20

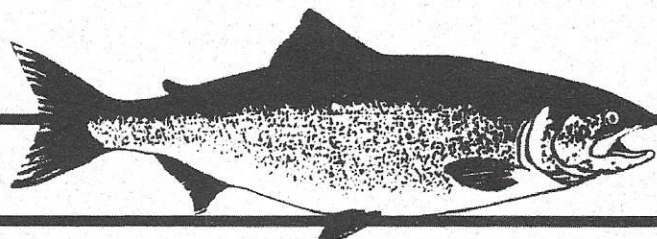
Dear Mr. Stewart and Juneau Ranger District Personnel adjudicating the Kensington DSEIS,

I would like to preface my comments that I have made my living from the sea and am the owner and operator of the Alaska Seafood Company in Juneau. Since my livelihood is made directly and indirectly from our seafood resources I am directly impacted by poor or misguided mining operators. Therefore, I take my submission of this letter seriously and with much thought and deliberation. I do not directly sell or supply the Kensington Mine any product or service.

Coeur Alaska and the managers of the Kensington Mine have conducted themselves professionally in their mine operations, community relations, communications, and their support for local charities and our schools. My wife is a retired schoolteacher, and we appreciate Coeur's dedication and long-term financial support for the Juneau School District reading program as well as for their providing environmental science scholarships at the University of Alaska. Educated and well-read citizens make wise decisions. As a past commander of the American Legion Post #25, I also know first-hand of the dedication and efforts that Coeur Alaska has made for veteran hire and support of Juneau veteran support services. Coeur Alaska has proven by act and deed to be an upstanding community member.

As I have reviewed the DSEIS, I have found that the Plan of Amendment #1 increases fish habitat and expands their proven wet tailing impoundment system at Slate Lake that has been previously approved by the US Forest Service and the US Army Corps of Engineers. Coeur Alaska's dam and facilities are regularly inspected and from all accounts, Coeur Alaska has done a fine job as a professional and responsible dam operator.

It is important to state that unlike the Mount Polley impoundment breach, the Kensington tailings dam is well-engineered and constructed to Alaska Dam Safety standards supervised by Alaska regulators that will last permanently. The dam has gone through rigorous state reviews and approvals with the most recent review occurring after the Mount Polley breach. I ask the Forest Service to stick with the facts, the State of Alaska approved engineering and the conclusions of the Canadian Panel that concluded that the Mount Polley Breach was due to poor engineering.





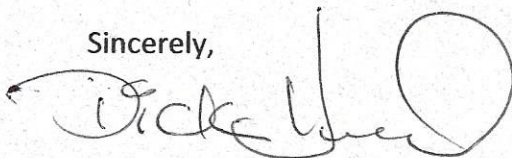
In addition to expanding the wet tailings treatment facility at Slate Lake and Upper Slate Lake, simply increasing the size of the current Waste Rock Storage Areas is wiser and better for the environment. The additional Waste Rock Storage along the Pipeline Road, as proposed by Coeur Alaska, is the best environmental and economic location and does not infringe on US Forest Service Land while having the least land disturbance and footprint. Consolidating areas that are close to the portal also minimize vehicle traffic, is safer and minimizes the use of diesel fuel that must be handled and minimizes diesel emissions.

Simply stated, the Proposed Action is the best option to protect aquatic resources, water quality, fish habitat, and is the best option to protect and maintain wetlands. Objectively, this is the most practicable alternative and is consistent with the US Forest Service best practices and the Tongass Land Management Plan.

But this is not just about what is best for the environment, the US Forest Service or the Tongass Land Management Plan. The Kensington Mine is a foundational enterprise of the economy of Alaska's capital city. The Kensington Mine employs over 375 full-time, year-round employees. I am especially proud of their military and veteran hiring. With Covid-19 and the complete upheaval of our local tourism industry, the jobs, tax base, and economic value of the Kensington Mine to our school funding, our local charities, and our City and Borough of Juneau operations are essential.

Coeur Alaska supports our community but is a proven and trustworthy community partner. I encourage the US Forest Service to conclude that the proposed POA 1 is the most responsible and practicable alternative.

Sincerely,



Dick Hand  
5731 Concrete Way  
Juneau, AK 99801

