

Attn. Matthew Reece

Tongass National Forest Greens Creek Mine

NEP SEIS 8510 Mendenhall Loop Road Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Greens Creek Mine North Extension Project

Mr. Reece:

I am writing in support of Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's (HGCMC) request to expand their Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF) and related infrastructure as described in their North Extension Project (NEP). I favor Alternative D.

Alternative D provides for an expansion of the existing TDF that builds on the existing successful facility, minimizes new monument disturbance outside the existing lease boundary, and avoids direct disturbance to sensitive habitats and environmental resources.

Mines such as HGCMC must pass through one of the most stringent and involved permitting processes anywhere in the world and they have met this challenge. Their daily operations are governed by dozens of stringent permits, and they devote significant resources to prevent impacts to their surrounding environment.

HGCMC has demonstrated its commitment to environmental excellence for the past 35 years. It also is a significant contributor to Juneau's economy and a generous community supporter.

I have been in the mining industry for over 27 years and recently joined the HGCMC team. I am a proud supporter of mining and I know that Hecla is an industry leader in putting safety and environmental protection in front of all other aspects of their operations. They are a responsible mining company and likely the best that I have ever worked for.

For these reasons, I support HGCMC's tailings expansion, Alternative D.

Thank you,

Don Weeks

Juneau, AK