



CITY OF ANGOON

RESOLUTION NO. 23-03

A RESOLUTION TO SUSPEND FURTHER PERMIT PROCESSING FOR DISCHARGE AND TAILINGS DISPOSAL EXPANSION AT THE HECLA GREENS CREEK MINE ON ADMIRALTY ISLAND.

WHEREAS: in 1978 President Jimmy Carter established the Admiralty Island National Monument in Proclamation 4611 because of its "superlative combination of scientific and historic objects;" and

WHEREAS: the Presidential Proclamation acknowledged that "Admiralty Island has been continuously inhabited by Tlingit Indians for approximately 10,000 years ... and the cultural history of the Tlingit Indians is rich in ceremony and creative arts and complex in its social, legal and political systems;" and

WHEREAS: in Congress ratified the 1978 Presidential Proclamation and directed that "subject to valid existing rights ... the Secretary of Agriculture was to manage the Admiralty Island National Monument to protect objects of ecological, cultural, geological, historical, prehistorical, and scientific interests;" and

WHEREAS: the City of Angoon is the only permanent settlement on Admiralty Island, located on the southwest coast at Kootznahoo Inlet. Angoon is 55 miles southwest of Juneau; and

WHEREAS: Hawk Inlet and Greens Creek, and the rest of Admiralty Island, is a sacred place to the people of Angoon; and

WHEREAS: Congress recognized the importance of Admiralty's unique values and Angoon's reliance on subsistence to help maintain our culture by stating in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) (title VIII) of the importance of not limiting subsistence opportunities and in Title V, Sec. 503 and repeated in Sec.504 that mine tailings and milling would not cause "...irreparable harm..."; and

WHEREAS: Congress further recognized the threat of mining activity to fish habitat directed the Forest Service in ANILCA Title V, Sec.505 to protect and maintain fish habitat and productivity, when such habitats are affected by mining activities; and

WHEREAS: in the September 2013 Record of Decision for the Greens Creek tailing's expansion Forest Supervisor Forrest Cole, emphasized that prior to further expansion of tailings disposal, additional studies are needed; and



WHEREAS: on its corporate website, Hecla Mining Company claims “We are committed to being a responsible company in many ways: by prioritizing the health and safety of our employees; by minimizing our impact on the environment through the development of innovative technologies and approaches to mining; by positively impacting our communities as a key contributor in the development and enhancement of local economies; by supporting local charities through the Hecla Charitable Foundation; and by behaving responsibly toward our key stakeholders (available at <http://www.hecla-mining.com/responsibility/> on September 19, 2012); and

WHEREAS: In spring 2015, one of our hunters contributed harbor seal tissues for laboratory analysis and results included data on heavy metal concentrations. This seal’s liver mercury concentration was one of highest of all seals tested in Alaska. Yet, there was no follow-up to see if that was representative of other seals on the west coast of Admiralty.

In keeping with our cultural tradition, this seal was shared with others in our village and eaten.

The high levels of mercury and lead in the Hawk Inlet seal’s liver cause us concern for the health of the seal and our other subsistence resources, such as clams, crab, halibut, shrimp, deer and seaweed; and

Whereas: a pre-mining baseline study was done as a condition of permitting the original Hawk Inlet Mine to be constructed and operated; and

Whereas: the pre-mining baseline studies were to be replicated periodically after the mine was in operation in order to determine what changes had occurred to the marine, fresh waters and uplands as a result of the mine operations; and

Whereas: the mine has been in operation for over thirty years and the baseline study has not been replicated to measure changes in the health of Hawk Inlet, adjacent fresh waters and uplands.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the City of Angoon and its duly appointed City Council urgently requests that The US Forest Service, State of Alaska and US Environmental Protection Agency suspend further permit processing for discharge and tailings disposal expansion at the Hecla Greens Creek Mine on Admiralty Island until the pre-mining baseline

studies on biodiversity, habitats and contaminants in Hawk Inlet have been replicated to ascertain health of the ecosystem and subsistence foods.

ADOPTED, this __18th__ day of April 2023, by the City Council of Angoon by a vote of __7__ Yeas, __0__ Nays.

CERTIFIED Albert Kookesh III

MAYOR, Albert Kookesh, III

ATTEST Kara James

CITY CLERK, Kara James

