

**Dale & Margaret Vermillion**

Vermillion Ranch Ltd.

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Greycliff, MT 59033

**Gardiner Ranger District**  
**RECEIVED**

**JUL 24 2023**

July 19, 2023

**Custer Gallatin National Forest** 

ATTN: East Boulder Mine Amendment 004 Draft EIS

%: Robert Grosvenor, CGNF

PO Box 5

Gardiner, MT 59003

Dear Mr. Grosvenor,

Thank you for accepting the following letter concerning the East Boulder Amendment 004 Draft EIS and for coming to Big Timber on July 12 for your presentation.

In your presentation, there was nothing discussed about dry storage. I know it is more expensive but dry storage would be better to maintain clean water in our rivers. At present the company is currently experiencing leakage in all their storage facilities. Moreover, even with a cap on the wet storage, there will still be leakage with big storms. Dry storage would eliminate this pollution from contaminating our famous fishing rivers - the Yellowstone, Boulder and the Stillwater. We would want and hope to maintain their good water and habitat free of nitrogen and other pollutants.

Climate change with it's rising temperatures will continue to bring bigger storms. Last year, for example, we experienced a 1000 year flood causing causing huge amounts of damage. Videos show houses in Gardiner and Red Lodge floating down our treasured rivers and streams as well as other severe damages- fortunately though no loss of life yet.. Nobody can control these floods and damages and even more severe floods seem increasingly probable. Using the measure in terms of 100 - 200 year no longer seems reasonable.

At present, the major mine contaminant is nitrogen, which in increasing amounts can/will damage the fishing in these rivers. This will result in algae, green moss and didymo which will destroy the habitat these rivers provide and with it the fishing and tourist business they support at present.

We want to protect our environment and keep our natural resources, fish and peace and quiet. We believe that none of this would be the same with the proposed bigger East Boulder mine with its adding 600 more workers and families. In short we don't want the intrusive Mine Amendment 004 to pass.

In addition, we feel that the mine should be required to post a bond substantial enough to repair any future damages if they occur and the company is in bankruptcy. Montana already has several mines that have declared bankruptcy. In spite of their professed assurances that this wouldn't happen they left Montana and Montanans with huge costs from insufficient bonds to repair their catastrophic damages.

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We hope that you agree with these sentiments and if so, trust that you will help us prevent any deterioration in these nearly pristine streams and maintain our Montana way of life. Thank you for your help in these matters.

Sincerely yours

*Margaret Vermillion*  
*Dale Vermillion*

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