

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/16/2019 5:26:28 PM

First name: Thomas

Last name: Ely

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I object to the proposed expansion of the Kensington mine. The mine was permitted for ten years then was to be closed and the land reclaimed. This timeline is still the best option for the environment and public land. Couer Alaska has polluted the environment and violated their water quality permit. Based on their criminal activity they have been fined by the EPA, which is just the cost of doing business for this company.

I'm especially concerned about raising the tailings pond dam height and the increased disposal of waste rock on the Comet Beach side. A catastrophic tailings dam failure is a likely occurrence under this expansion proposal. If this were to happen it would severely pollute Berners Bay and the Lynn Canal. The mine is in a highly seismic area where a major earthquake is likely to occur at anytime.

The expanded waste rock disposal will affect the scenic views from the ferry and Lynn Canal. The best option since the company has failed to operate in an environmentally responsible manner and violated their permits is to close the mine permanently and restore the environment and clean up the toxic mine site. The company profits while the environment loses from mining activity on the Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,

Thomas Ely