

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/5/2019 5:34:30 PM

First name: Charlie

Last name: Williams

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been to the Kensington Mine on two occasions - 4 years ago and this past summer. After witnessing the exhaustive efforts that have been emplaced to protect the environment, I believe that the Kensington project does a better job of protecting our environment than Mother Nature! For example, my last visit was at the end of a several days of heavy rainfall; every roadside ditch was swollen with the accumulation of several days of rainfall - and the discharge from the settling ponds associated with every ditch was clear with no turbidity. This was during a time that all of our local lakes and the salt water in all of Southeast Alaska had turned brown (from the runoff over the natural terrain) of this rainfall. The lake that was expanded for the tailing's disposal was also clear and free of turbidity. Visiting the water treatment plant (that treats all water discharged to the lake) helped me understand the commitment that Kensington has made to protecting the environment. All water discharged is of drinking water quality; and, most of the time the discharge water quality is higher than what we expect from the tap! The tailings that are discharged into the lake form the bottom of the lake - they don't leach any toxic chemicals because none are used in the processing of the tailings. They are simply ground up rock that the gold has been removed from. The water that occupies the lake is at least as clean as any water in any lake in Southeast Alaska. The dam has been engineered to perform better than what Mother Nature provides. And, even if it were possible to fail, the only thing that would happen is that clean water would run down the hillside.

I support the expansion and continued operation of the Kensington Project. This mine is a great example for demonstrating proper stewardship of the environment. Yes, the company has been fined by the EPA for violations of their permit. I have read the causes for violation and my take away is that with the voluminous regulations - no company could possibly be perfect in the interpretation and adherence to the bureaucracy which regulates mining activities. The preponderance of the fines are a result of violating reporting and record keeping rules. This mine has worked very diligently to provide a

I have read the letters from those who would like to prevent this mine from expanding with an objective view-point. I have looked for factual basis in their letters; finding only rhetoric that paints broad strokes of doom and gloom about any mining. Claims of irreparable damage to habitat of people and animals are simply emotionally charged inflammatory rhetoric. When someone states that the Kensington is "spewing poison" and "devastating wonderful open space"; they are creating an emotional response that we as humans identify as disgusting and reprehensible. And, if there was a factual basis for these claims, I too would support the goal of preventing this expansion. Fortunately, working together, the Forest Service, EPA, and Coeur Alaska Kensington have developed the Kensington with a goal of not simply protecting - but, improving the environment surrounding the project. These are the facts and this is reason to support this expansion.