

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/24/2020 8:13:52 AM

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Comments: Greetings,

I have some questions and concerns regarding the expansion of the tailings pile at Greens Creek Mine on Admiralty Island.

-This expansion requires increasing the height of the tailings pile by an additional 100 feet. Is that stable? How can you be sure and what method are you using?

-What additional measures will you require to prevent fugitive dust once the tailings pile is even larger? I hear this is a current problem and with local weather patterns, the wind often accelerates through this area. Weather coming from icy straights and also down the Taku. Skull Island is a great weather station along with other models that depict the intensity in this area.

-The 2013 ROD estimates that even after all preventative measures have been taken, the tailings pile (prior to this expansion) will contribute 100 tons of dust per year far into the Monument and Kootsnoowoo Wilderness areas. Increased lead concentrations have already been observed on the land and in the fresh waters attributed to fugitive dust. The increased concentration of lead has been observed in Hawk Inlet, but it is considered to be caused by "natural erosion" without any evidence collected to support this assertion.

-Will you require the 1981 baseline studies to be repeated before approving another mine expansion, to determine that no harm has been done to the National Monument? If not, why not? What gives you confidence that no harm has been done and that no harm will be done by this expansion?

-Mining is only allowed if operations "are compatible, to the maximum extent feasible," with preventing or minimizing potential adverse impacts to Monument values. The Forest Service must set measurable guidelines on the level of adverse impacts that are considered tolerable. Without that standard, "maximum extent feasible" is meaningless.

- It is critical that the Forest Service requires the 1981 baseline assessments to be replicated in order to determine if harm has been done to the Monument before approving an expansion that could cause further harm to the Monument and all who depend on it.

- A new EIS is necessary before approving another mine expansion that would allow approximately 23 years more operation and generate another 4-5 million cubic yards of mine waste. The new EIS must include analysis of alternative tailings disposal facilities, meaningful consultation with the Angoon Community Association, and identification and plans to address the social, health, and environmental effects of this proposal borne disproportionately by the Angoon and Hoonah communities. The 2013 EIS is insufficient because it leaves out these specific analyses.

- The Forest Service must require additional dust monitors to measure the extent of harm to the public lands and conduct plant and animal lead uptake studies in order to protect wildlife and subsistence users.

-If there are current issues with the tailings during active mining what confidence do we have that they will maintain order and containment within standards after the mine is no longer active?

Thank you for your time.