

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/14/2020 8:38:32 PM

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Comments: I am posting a comment in favor of Kensington's SEIS.

The extraction of resources from the earth's surface is an activity that has existed for the entirety of the existence of mankind after the discovery that a hand could grasp an item and use it as a tool. The resources that we discover are found based on where they were placed by natural processes of the earth, and cannot be conveniently moved to a less scenic area at the whim of some one person, or group of people. Having said that, there are reasonable and cost effective means of extracting those resources in most cases. There is virtually no method of extraction that can be accomplished without an impact, physically or visually. The SEIS in question has attempted to address all realistically foreseeable, and most likely potential impacts, and proposed methods to address them in a reasonably effective process. There can be no "reasonable" expectation to return any site to an standard of "untouched", because we cannot duplicate nature's processes. We can exert a reasonable amount of effort, dollars, and pride to use the land and resources in a responsible manner that minimizes the impact, and returns the land to an "acceptable" level of pre-development condition, which this SEIS does address.

The mining and other resource extraction processes employed in Alaska provide an enormous benefit to the state as a whole, both directly and indirectly. Without those industries, there's no impetus to improve infrastructure, to increase visitors, or provide access to the natural wonders and beauties that the state can provide. I myself would not have had a reason to come to Alaska without the impetus of the mining industry existing here. The above state average salary I enjoy would not be providing taxes to the state and local economy. I would not be driving/servicing/fueling my vehicles, and boat in the state. I would not own a home and pay subsequent taxes, upkeep, repair, and expansion dollars that all add to the local economy. I would not have my kids in the local school system, I would not be shopping at local vendors.

If I lived elsewhere, I may have visited Alaska at some point, which would provide a blip of a few dollars relative to the whole, but as a single visit, those dollars pale to nothing compared to what I submit to the state and local economy by living and working here. My annual expenses exceed \$70k, with more than 80% spent within the state. The mine provides jobs directly to almost 400 additional people who *all* earn above the average wage in the state, providing funds to the state even if they live elsewhere, due to travel, lodging, food and other services on a recurring basis. Ancillary services provided to the mine employ many local individuals in terms of additional products, and services, which cascades to additional revenues for the city and state. These revenues boost the local economy, providing services to businesses that would either not exist at all, or would be much smaller where these year-round operating facilities not providing business to them.

Mining is difficult no matter the conditions, it's extremely expensive, and there are few remaining raw mineral resources on this planet which are easily accessible. Going forward, none of them will be simple, or easy to extract, and preventing incremental expansions of existing resource extraction projects will have longer term dampening effects on other businesses being interested in operating in Alaska. This is a lose-lose scenario across the board. Ensuring a realistic, and achievable extraction plan that has safety and environmental protections in place for most likely problem scenarios, but supporting, and enabling these projects to continue to start, grow, expand, and produce, is a win for the state in all aspects. This SEIS shows a path forward to continue allowing Kensington to produce responsibly and with appropriate environmental stewardship for the foreseeable future, and as such should be allowed to continue the hard work they have been engaged in to this point in time.