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First name: Frank

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Reece,

Please accept the following comments regarding the above referenced document and project.

Expansion of the Slate Lake tailings treatment facility (TTF) is the most advantageous alternative for consideration by the Forest Service (FS) from any perspective.

1. This alternative retains all tailings impacts in one facility. That facility has previously been fully analyzed and approved for tailings storage via an earlier EIS process.
2. Impacts of tailings storage in the Slate Lake TTF has been fully analyzed and monitored during operations to date. Real-life empirical data have been collected for a decade, showing less than expected impacts and validating previous decisions. Any other option would involve speculation and much less certainty. It behooves the FS to stick with its previous decision to approval storage in Slate Lake and not take an increased risk of prediction at any other location or using any other technology.
3. Monitored impacts demonstrate that Slate Lake - as permitted - will meet reclamation goals. Expanding - and in fact improving - the existing reclamation plan as proposed by the applicant assures the least risk to long-term site management.
4. The Slate Lake expansion is the premier alternative to assure continued economic vitality of the project, its employees, suppliers, vendors, customers, area citizens, municipalities, and the State of Alaska. Any other alternative reduces economic viability to some extent, which could/will in the end hurt everyone.

Stick with the plan. Approve the Slate Lake TTF expansion as proposed for the sake of all.

Sincerely,

Frank Bergstrom

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