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Title:

Comments: I have many concerns about proposed mining operations in Long Valley. In this physically isolated region of the North American west, many human induced botanical and landscape changes that drive increased fire occurrence elsewhere are lessened. Allowing the large scale intrusion of subsurface mining in Long Valley would bring pressure on water availability in an already drought challenged region. Current uses in Long Valley must contend with changing annual limits of heir water usage dependent on the amount of annual precipitation. My understanding is that a mining operation would continue using water at the same rate independent of changing meteorological conditions from year to year. A major concern of mine due to proposed large scale mining relates to the pulmonary health of local residents and visitors. The Long Valley caldera soils - surface and subsurface - have developed where there are large quantities of minute volcanic glass shards in the parent material. The glass here is recognized as the sharpest in the western United States. As mining proceeds these shards will be unearthed and released to be moved by wind. This would be an avoidable repeat of a toxic situation which LADWP is working to alleviate - at a significant economic priced - due to wind blown sediments moving off the anthropogenically dried bed of Owens Lake.