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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greens Creek Comments

I am a resident of Douglas, Alaska. I have lived in the North for over 30 years and have seen beneficial mines and destructive mines. Although I have considered Greens Creek to be a beneficial mine based on employment and community involvement, I have the following comments regarding the tailings expansion. These comments are based on reading the previous comments already posted. I have been unable to find documentation that issues in previous comments have been addressed.

1. Has the mine proponent engaged in meaningful discussion with local Native organizations that have an interest and/or rights in this area to the extent that issues of consultation have been resolved?
2. Has the monetary amount for cleanup insurance been raised to reflect much higher construction costs and inflation in recent (last 2) years and probability of continued higher inflation (4-6%)?
3. Has there been a current (within last 2 years) environmental assessment of Hawk Inlet and streams adjacent to the mine? Has a current assessment been compared to previous baseline studies? What was the conclusion, if the comparison has been done?
4. Has Greens Creek done any feasibility studies to address community concerns in regard to increasing the use of renewable energy (hydro?) rather than diesel generators? Greens Creek could pioneer other alternative energy sources in Southeast Alaska as well. What were the results of the feasibility studies?
5. Have all the concerns from the EPA in Mark Jens' letter been addressed? Have additional fugitive dust monitors been put in place or planned for future?
6. Have the fish surveys (creeks and water bodies possibly affected by tailings) that were not previously done (mentioned in the comments from State of Alaska) been completed and what were the results? Are fish present, what kinds, how many, etc?
7. Have alternatives to water covered tailings ponds been explored for this sensitive environment in a protected area? Alternatives include, but aren't limited to, engineered bioreactors and evapotranspiration systems. With climate change, record rainfalls can increase the risk of pond flooding, waste spillage, dam failure and tailings collapse due to soil instability.

The world we live in today and the one that is going to be our future is much different than the one that Greens Creek was originally birthed in. Any proposals need to reflect those differences.

Carole Bookless