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First name: Gregory

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Attn. Matthew Reece

Tongass National Forest Greens Creek Mine

NEP SEIS 8510 Mendenhall Loop Road Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Greens Creek Mine North Extension Project

Mr. Reece:

Previously I have had the opportunity to visit the Greens Creek Mine. It was obvious to me that the mine is exceptionally well run and highly protective of the environment and water. The tailings facility has a very small footprint and the attendant water management and treatment system seems to handle water very well. To me, Greens Creek has proven its environmental stewardship. The mine generates great wealth for the Juneau area and for Alaska and this should be allowed to continue.

I am writing in support of Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's (HGCMC) request to expand their Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF) and related infrastructure as described in their North Extension Project (NEP). I favor Alternative D.

Alternative D provides for an expansion of the existing TDF that builds on the existing successful facility, minimizes new monument disturbance outside the existing lease boundary, and avoids direct disturbance to sensitive habitats and environmental resources.

Mines such as HGCMC must pass through one of the most stringent and involved permitting processes anywhere in the world and they have met this challenge. Their daily operations are governed by dozens of stringent permits, and they devote significant resources to prevent impacts to their surrounding environment.

HGCMC has demonstrated its commitment to environmental excellence for the past 35 years. It also is a significant contributor to Juneau's economy and a generous community supporter. For these reasons, I support HGCMC's tailings expansion, Alternative D.

Thank you,

Gregory Beischer