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Comments: Greeting,

As a concerned 15 year resident of Santa Cruz County, I am curious as to how this mining operation is going to handle the impact on water quality, particularly after filling in the mineshafts with a concrete paste. Concrete inevitably will crack, exposing fresh surface area, and water inevitably will seep into those cracks since the concrete will be in the mine shafts that were pumped free of ground water. IF the water table recovers from this massive amount of pumping, and the remaining concrete is submerged, how will this concrete affect the pH of the ground water?

Concrete can leach ions (as well as other elements) into the water and change its acidity levels, or in this case, cause contamination of other sorts. For example, how sure can South 32 be that the mining remains, e.g. chemical and other residue, is going to be so completely encased and protected by concrete that no amount of leeching into ground water will occur at levels to be toxic to surrounding life? My understanding is that this has never been done before. What safety studies on this technique have been done prior to this?

Thank your for your consideration of these problems,
Walter Lohmann