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First name: Candace

Last name: Volz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am opposed to this expansion of mine storage because of the potential for heavy metals and seepage from expanded waste rock and tailings storage areas to impact local waterways. I realize that the Montana Department of Environmental Quality requires that discharge to the Stillwater River only occur after water meets strict state quality standards, but that does not cover surface runoff, which will not be treated at all. There has been no bond posted by this mining company to undertake reclamation after mining necessary before permits are granted to ensure the surrounding environment remains protected indefinitely. If you don't require this, NFS, the \$\$ will stop with you . . .

Expansion of surface operations will encroach onto National Forest System lands. This will result in disruption to local wildlife habitats, scenic integrity, and also recreational access in the Custer Gallatin National Forest. I am opposed to this expansion of tailings storage and extension of contract length.