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Organization:

Title:

Comments: [External Email]Lutsen Ski Hill Expansion

[External Email]

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Dear Constance Cummins, Michael Jimenez and other concerned persons,

Thank you, Michael for your email explaining the intent of the Review.

I spoke with Ellen and she explained to me that you would like to have some facts to back up some of our concerns. I do not have documentation on all of our Environmental concerns. However, I do have some results on "Testing the Effects of the Nucleator in Artificial Snow."

It is proposed that two Snowmaking Machines will be used and additional on-mountain water storage will be needed for the operation.

- * The two reservoirs will hold 13 million gallons of water to be pumped out of Lake Superior. At this time it is projected that 7,500 gallons a minute would be pumped out of the lake.
- * This is an enormous amount of water to be taken from the Lake possibly daily and over a 3 month period.
- * The large Pumps that would be required to pump the water up the mountain will use either Gasoline or Electricity. These cause exhaust pollution and noise.

Lake Superior from Grand Marais to Tofte is traditionally used for fishing and is still a prime resource for Fishing.

- * There are home owners, resorts and the wild life all depend on quality and quantity of the water in Lake Superior.
- * The removal of such large quantities of water could have a negative effect on these other usages already in place.
- * In Park City, Lake Tahoe and other areas where snowmaking takes place near bodies of water there have reports of Algae infections in the water that irritate people's skin and create unhealthy environments for marine life. Extraction of water for the Snowmaking machines, combined with increasing drought conditions, increase these issues.

The melting and run-off could infect every living organism on its way back to the Lake. It could possibly seep into the water table and pollute residential drinking water.

- * The Two Snowmaking Machines have Huge Fans and are very noise. They mostly run at night and their Lights would be seen for miles. "Snowmaking would occur during LMC's current snowmaking season, which lasts an average of 100 days." "Snowmaking infrastructure would be installed on all new developed ski trails for a total of 174.5 acres of snowmaking coverage".
- * This is a very large area in a sensitive wildlife area and could impact quite enjoyment of residential homes in the area. This area is presently being used for hikers, mountain bikers, hunters and wildlife

Three other issues to consider.

- * If this venture fails who takes care of the cleanup and returning it to its current condition. There is historic evidence of large expansion failure, and when this happens, they leave the scars on the area. A responsibility cleanup directive will need to be written into the contract.
- * New large resorts in Lutsen will divert traffic to the already established lodging, specifically in East Lutsen and Grand Marais. The surge of vacation homes and lodges in Grand Marais will lose occupancy, which inevitably will lower real estate values. It will also impact restaurants that depend on this traffic.
- * Our infrastructure and highway cannot support a large increase in traffic. The bottle neck congestion through Two Harbors, animal deaths by vehicles, accident rate, and pollution caused by traffic are already an issue. This will increase these issues exponentially. You will be opening a Pandora's box of necessary future growth to support an already financially fragile venture. We need slow, sustainable, environmentally friendly growth. Not the kind of large expansion that causes scars and stretch marks that can never heal.

I know as Forest Supervisor, Rangers and DNR officials, you are the Care-Givers of the Forest. Entrusted to protect and respect the life and health of our Natural Resources. This is sacred land. We have already lost a lot to logging, mining and fires.

It may appear that using these resources will benefit a few but, Please, consider all of the concerns of the people of Cook County that do not want the environment used and abused. We feel that the pollutants: chemical, waste water, lights, noise and traffic will adversely affect the lives of the local population of several thousand people.

Thank you for your concern and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexa Douglas and other Concerned Citizens

Attached is a Report that identifies the foreign Material used in making the artificial snow as a 'Pollutant.' "This research experiment is aimed at evaluating the effect of the Nucleator on the micro-organisms like bacteria in the earth surface."