

Medical Professionals Against Sulfide Mining

"We, the undersigned medical professionals, would like to express our concern and register our objection to the construction and operation of metallic sulfide mines in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Our concerns revolve around the following issues:

1. The inevitable contamination of our ground and surface water from acid mine drainage since there never has been a mine of this type that has not "leaked" (acidifying the water and leaching of heavy metals).
2. The impact of this contamination on the health of mine workers and the surrounding communities.
3. The blighting of wilderness areas which residents, visitors and the local economy

depend upon for hunting, fishing and other forms of recreation and relaxation (our mental health).

4. The permitting process being driven by political forces and issues, not sound science.* We have recently witnessed the incredible environmental and economic consequences of this form of permitting in the oil industry. It would seem reckless to allow this kind of risk to the Great Lakes.

*There are numerous irregularities and procedural violations that have occurred in the permitting process, including the MDEQ admittedly not following the non-ferrous mining law. They are currently being addressed through litigation."

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Save the Wild U.P. Issue Update:

* Kennecott Minerals has begun construction of the mining surface facilities without the required amendments addressing site plan, utility and transportation changes among others. For full details please contact Save the Wild U.P.
* The "affected area" of impact has not been adequately identified and many citizens and landowners are concerned about the company's piece-meal approach to the development of this project.
* Kennecott manipulates state and local authorities. Video documentation shows two Rio Tinto employees suggesting the arrest of two Native Americans at Eagle Rock on May 27, cars. Soon after, the company treated law enforcement officers to a picnic lunch on the Yellow Dog Plains.
* Legal challenges against the project are advancing in appellate courts. "We are continuing to appeal the mining and water discharge permits. Kennecott is ignoring the legal

system while it works at the site as if the legal challenges do not exist at all. We are confident that our appeal will be successful and we will seek all possible relief.", said Michelle Halley of the National Wildlife Federation.
* Congressman Bart Stupak recently stated, "Unfortunately, Michigan's mining laws fall short of holding Kennecott accountable. State permits were approved without requiring an Environmental Impact Statement and without independent baseline hydrological and geological studies. Because there is no evidence of the environment's condition before Kennecott starts mining, there is no way to prove what damage they cause."
* Take Action! Write or call your local and state representatives, write or call your local newspaper and media outlets, host an informational presentation by Save the Wild U.P., visit the proposed mine site, volunteer time or donate to the many groups addressing this issue!



Save The Wild U.P. org

For more information call 228.4444
or visit our website.