

Linda Brown

Dear Ms. Adoko,

I recognize that the permits for which you have requested public comment are not for the activities which concern so many residents of the Interior. That said, DEC obviously recognizes that mining and ore transportation are inextricably linked. If there is no way to get the ore to the mill, then the mine's basic operations are moot. This is to say that the thorniest part of the plan, getting the ore to the mill at Ft. Knox, absolutely must be addressed before the mine permit should be issued. Indeed, ore transport over 200 miles of public road is a sine qua non for the mine's profitability. Therefore, whatever the strengths and weaknesses of Peak's mine plan itself, it is apparent that the ore haul plan MUST be addressed if it is to be considered a plan which fully addresses the dangers to the public should the mine itself be permitted. And, while I recognize that roads are not within DEC's purview, DEC must consider these two aspects as part of the whole. This fact inevitably complicates the picture but surely permitting a mine with no means of transporting ore is an exercise in futility. I urge DEC to consult with DOT and other stakeholders to develop an ore haul plan that protects the health and safety of the traveling public.