

# Dirk Tordoff

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) website greets visitors with the following:

Conserving, improving, and protecting Alaska's natural resources and environment to enhance the health, safety, and economic and social well-being of Alaskans.

This is their mandate. This is their job.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) is in a decades-long struggle to meet Federally imposed air quality standards that are, at best, difficult to achieve during winter months. Any additional sources of particulate pollution, in this case 95-foot-long 80-ton Ore-Trains running through the FNSB nonattainment area every 7.5 minutes 24 hours a day, 365 days should be opposed by DEC for health reasons.

The proposed transportation route between Tetlin and Ft. Knox s will traverse no fewer than 100 school bus stops. DEC should oppose 95-foot-long 80-ton Ore-Trains on this route for health, safety, and social well-being reasons.

These decisions should be made by competent DEC employees based on facts, not by temporary politically appointed administrators.

I'm all for the people of Tetlin profiting from their Manh Choh gold reserves. However subjecting thousands of other Alaskans to unnecessary health and safety risks at the behest of multinational corporations is not the way. Just process the gold on-site.