

Alyssa Quintyne

My name is Alyssa Quintyne. I'm a 22 year long resident of Fairbanks, and I am urging the DEC to reject the Mahn Choh permit. I don't feel that DEC nor the MC company has really taken into account the transportation, public safety, air quality and pollution, and community wellbeing into account with this project. And as I have pointed out in many other extractive projects- the way that companies insert themselves into our communities, and the lack of consistent and adequate management from the State of these projects leave us residents vulnerable to health, financial, and resource detriments when accidents happen. It's the residents that are left with the bills, the coughs, the funerals, the empty houses, and the pollution to clean up; not the company that caused the issue in the first place, because they are not obligated to.

Interior Alaska has been suffering with the safety and maintenance of our roads for decades, especially if you live on the outer parts of town. Permafrost melt, winter ice storms, wind storms, earthquakes, increased snowfall, sink holes all impact the safety of our roads. The Borough and DOT's response has always been lack of funding and staff. When this project was initially introduced, then we hear DOT say that they can fix our road. Simply to me, it is unconscionable to fix our roads for semi-trucks driving mining waste through our town, and not for the safety and access for us as residents, who also live and invest in this place. Additionally when these trucks would travel on, Chena Hot Springs road and the Steese highway are two very utilized roads in town, and often are dangerous in the winter with the storms we've had. I believe there were no-fault 4 deaths on Chena Hot Springs last winter with the ice storms and the divots it left in the road. If we can't even get our roads safe enough for our neighbors, how is a truck driver going to be safe?

Interior Alaska has been suffering with air quality issues for decades, and every level of government is working together to try and tackle that detriment. The dust and mining waste will impact that detriment, and I have not seen appropriate measures and commitments from the company to avoid exacerbating that detriment.

When it comes to transportation here, it's subpar. We're very spread out, car centric, and inaccessible. Kids and teens, students, elders, disabled people, car less people are kinda SOL if they don't have a car and don't live on a bus line. The maintenance of our roads during breakup and winter is dismal, if not dangerous. Sidewalks are rarely plowed and the burms cover them. So if you have to bike, wheel around, walk, try to catch a school or public bus, often times you have to wait in the road. In neighborhoods in Chena Hot Springs, Fox, Farmers Loop, Steele Creek, etc. where there aren't sidewalks on some of the main roads, and a semi-truck passes thru, what does this company and DEC expect pedestrians to do?

We have many equity and accessibility issues in Interior Alaska that need to be addressed first. The safety and wellbeing of my neighbors matters more and first than the potential profit of this project.