

Pam Weaver

I strongly oppose passage of the Waste Management Plan and the Mine Reclamation Plan permits. Approving these permits would be the equivalent of a doctor looking at my arms and legs and saying I'm perfectly healthy, while my heart is failing. These permits do not consider the impact of an entire mine proposal.

Both plans only consider the Tetlin mine site. The EPA looked at the mine plan and raised many concerns, most of which have been ignored. EPA suggested that the southern pit be domed, just as the north pit is, so that water may run off. The plan still leaves it only partially filled in. The area will only be monitored for 7 years after closing, while the mine in Nevada, with similar acid producing rock must be monitored for 200 years. Quite a discrepancy with many unknowns, especially in an area known for seismic activity.

The major problem with these permits is that only a third of the entire project is being considered. This is not right nor is it fair to the people living along the 250 mile corridor. There are major health and safety concerns along this entire route, including release of acid causing dust and toxins from passing huge trucks, including their tire and brakes wearing, creating contaminated runoff from rain and melting snow into wetlands and soils that will biomagnify throughout the food chain. None of this is being considered. Nor are the impacts to air quality in North Pole or Fairbanks. All of this must be addressed.

We need transparency. We need a public hearing to consider the entire proposal and an EIS must be done for the entire route. To not do so would be foolish. The better solution is to process the ore in Tetlin.

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