

September 15, 2016

Board of Environmental Protection

State of Maine

My name is Elery Keene

I am opposed to the currently proposed regulations for mining in Maine because I believe that maintenance of clean water is more important than mining in Maine. Once water has become polluted by mining operations it must be cleaned up or stored in a place so that it cannot migrate into the surface water or the groundwater. Water can move very long distances through the ground. When I was in college I was told that the spring water obtained at the Poland Spring came through the ground all the way from the White Mountains. It was good lean water. Good clean water from this source continues to provide jobs for Maine workers. If this water were to become contaminated by a mining operation, this would be bad for our economy. There are probably other places in Maine where this could happen, but hasn't happened yet. Maine is better off being a place to produce clean water for a long time than to produce some metals for a while until the mine closes, leaving polluted water which is spreading for long distances. Under these proposed rules, the mining company is not going to be required to maintain clean water for decades and decade into the future. Tax payers of Maine should not be expected to pay that cost in order to get a few mining jobs for a few years. This is bad for our economy.

Elery Keene

3 Pat Street

Winslow, Maine 04901