
PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED FOR THE WOLFDEN ZONING PETITION

ZP 779, Pickett Mountain Mine, T6 R6 WELS

07/25/2020 through 09/09/2020

**Maine Land Use Planning Commission
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**

The Maine Land Use Planning Commission is accepting public comment on the zoning petition filed by Wolfden Mt. Chase, LLC. to allow for development of the Pickett Mountain Mine in T6 R6 WELS. Public comments will be accepted until 10 days following the close of the public hearing for the petition. The public hearing has not yet been scheduled. A public notice for the hearing will be issued later this year in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice, 01-672 CMR 4.

Written comments received on the Wolfden Zoning Petition for the Pickett Mountain Mine will be posted periodically on the LUPC webpage. Information on changes to the webpage and other notifications to interested persons will be distributed through the Maine GovDelivery system.

For more information on the review process, filing public comments, and signing-up for notifications, visit the LUPC webpage at: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/lupc/projects/wolfden/wolfden_rezoning.html.

From: [Lew and Kelly Kingsbury](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Subject: Quick look at the final Wolfden rezoning petition on Pickett Mountain
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2020 8:51:00 AM

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Project Manager Stacy Beyer

I understand that the LUPC has accepted the Wolfden petition as complete and subject to further public comment and review prior to rezoning their mining site at Pickett Mountain.

I have made a brief cursory review of a selected portion of the Wolfden petition. The below excerpt from the petition is troubling. The passage in bold lettering refers to the solid filter cake waste filtered out from mine seepage water and runoff water.

Mine Water Management and Treatment

All process and seepage water into the mine as well as precipitation landing outside of the tailings facility footprint are collected via run off ditching and routed to the south eastern (down gradient) corner of the project site into a lined raw water pond in order to contain all water collected on the project site. Seepage water from tailings as well as precipitation water onto the tailings facility are collected separately and pumped into the mill as recycled water. A series of berms will be designed to re-route precipitation water outside of project footprint in order to reduce contact with site and minimize potential impact. Once the water is collected in the raw water pond, it is pumped to the water treatment facility. The technological state of mine water treatment is very advanced as a form of waste water treatment with processes designed to adjust pH, remove sulfates and metals producing a high quality effluent and a high density solids waste stream (sludge) the latter of which is thickened by a conventional filter press to produce a sulfate filter cake. **The solid filter cake will be placed underground in the mine.**

This approach does not comply with the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining statutes and rules. This solid filter cake is required by statute to be place in the TMF facility. It has the same chemical makeup as tailings waste. Only properly treated waste rock is allowed to be placed back into the mine.

I will continue to review the accepted as complete petition as placed on the ACF website. Am having difficulties finding the Financial Capacity attachment.

Respectfully

Lew Kingsbury
PO Box 156
Nobleboro, Maine
kingsburyk@hotmail.com
207-841-1334

From: [Nick Bennett](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Subject: A question about "filter cake"
Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 12:16:59 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Hi Stacie:

In going back and looking at your May 27 letter, I noticed item number 4 in the section on information necessary to deem the application complete for processing. It states:

4. Waste management, tailings disposal. There is still at least one residual reference to backfilling tailings in the mine shaft which is found in Question 15, CLUP Consistency; see attached with highlights. Please review and update all questions, exhibits, and attachments, as needed.

On [Page 206 of the pdf file of Wolfden's revised zoning petition](#), it states:

The technological state of mine water treatment is very advanced as a form of waste water treatment with processes designed to adjust pH, remove sulfates and metals producing a high quality effluent and a high density solids waste stream (sludge) the latter of which is thickened by a conventional filter press to produce a sulfate filter cake. The solid filter cake will be placed underground in the mine. Excess water from the filter press is returned to the influent equalization tank for treatment.

"Filter cake" is tailings, even if Wolfden chooses to call it a different name.

Why do you think Wolfden continues not to remove references to backfilling spent mine workings with tailings, and shouldn't this reference have been removed before LUPC deems the application complete?

Thanks very much.

Nick

In looking at your May

Nick Bennett

Staff Scientist and Healthy Waters Director

3 Wade Street, Augusta, Maine 04330

Direct: (207) 430-0116



**Natural Resources
Council of Maine**

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of Maine – join us!

[NRCM is committed to a more inclusive Maine.](#)

From: [David Packard](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Subject: Pickett Mountain
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 5:34:31 PM

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I am strongly opposed to this project if they can't explain how they will treat the wastewater.... Please stick to the mining regulations the people of Maine worked so hard for...

Thank you

Sent from my iPad

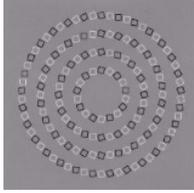
From: [Lindsay Newland Bowker](#)
To: [Beyer, Stacie R](#)
Subject: Wolfden Application 779 : Paste Back Fill Not Excluded & Other New Issues
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 2:15:36 PM
Attachments: [Wolfden Comment 8112020 ZP779.docx](#)

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Beyer:

Correction for the record, again, that the present statute does not exclude paste back fill with or without tailings added and some other issues emerging from NRCM's comments which do not specifically relate to what is and may be considered by LUPC in its final decision on this application.

Lindsay Newland Bowker, Executive Director
World Mine Tailings Failures
compiler@WorldMineTailingsFailures.org
+1 207 367 5145



LINDSAY NEWLAND BOWKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WORLD MINE TAILINGS FAILURES

15 COVE MEADOW ROAD STONINGTON MAINE 04681 USA
+1 207 367 5145 compiler@worldminetailingsfailures.org

Ms. Stacie R. Beyer, Planning Manager
Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
Augusta Maine 04333-022

RE:ZP 779 Pickett Mtn/Mt. Chase

Dear Ms. Beyer:

We have a saying in Maine: "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear".

NRCM, contrary to better advice received over the 5 years of deliberation on our metallic mining statute and contrary to the faithful grass roots community who supported the wisdom and advice of better informed sources, gave us a sow's ear of law and regulation and that is what now confines the LUPC's and DEP's consideration of the public interest in deciding all of Wolfden's mining applications including for a zoning change to enable moving to advanced explorations and mining.

The LUPC authority does not, unfortunately, explicitly distinguish the very different levels of land use impacts from Tier 1 advanced explorations through full mining. That is why our comments have urged you to draw on your broader exclusive mandate for land use and zoning in the unorganized territories and on the well established and almost universal principles of "zoning variance" which is essentially what the reclassification sought is. That broader mandate under existing law does allow you to make these distinctions. You are not required to give a blanket yay or nay to all that would be involved from Tier 1 through actual mining nor will you have the information needed to assess land use considerations and compatibility with surrounding land uses until each of the next two stages are completed. What you wrote to Wolfden asserting that they had not satisfied the requirements for a sub district change is correct under law and would not trigger any action under International Treaty Law.

If you find the information presented satisfactory to approve a zoning variance limited only to Tier1 activity I see no impediment to that in the existing framework. If Wolfden expected to go to Tier 2 it would then come back to you for that variance approval and then finally a third time if they opted to proceed with mining there would be a full blown plan for LUPC to consider in the formal zoning change to a mining sub district .

In your first letter to Wolfden you did an excellent job of asserting these principles but things now seem off the track with NRCM jumping in with all kinds of comments on the change of zoning application that have nothing to do with the authority and mandate of LUPC in the matter now before the agency on Wolfden.

Three important points to keep all on track and focused on only what is before LUPC now and what LUPC can draw on for considering the zoning change requested.

(1) the public interest consideration of the Wolfden applications for exploration and mining of the defined mineralized area is entirely and only as defined in Maine's statute which is silent on the two most important areas which define both environmental and economic risk to the people of Maine: the economic viability of the resource ([Bowker Chambers 2015](#), [Bowker Chambers 2016](#), [Bowker Chambers 2017](#)) and the financial capacity and qualifications of the applicant (World Mine Tailings Failure 2019-2020). I believe both were in earlier versions of the statute. There is nothing in the LUPC part of rezoning for mining that allows consideration of either nor is there in the mining statute itself which governs DEP's actions and process should LUPC approve this zoning change and which most of NRCM's comments contemplate/point to.

(2) Wolfden, a foreign corporation under international law, has protection under international treaties against inducing an investment and then impeding the return on that investment. To change the law at this moment to correct these gross deficiencies in protection of the public interest might invoke a liability for the State for all that Wolfden has spent to date. Without clear and specific standards for quality of the mineralized deposit (i.e. its economic viability for mining) and without clearer standards on financial qualifications of the applicant the State's ultimate total liability will likely be far greater than just settling now. Our advice is to reach a legal settlement with Wolfden allowing them to recoup their investment in exchange for agreeing to forgo a further pursuit of mining under the existing framework (International Treaty would likely allow them that in settlement anyway if we now introduced standards on economic viability of the mineralized deposit and technical and financial qualifications of the applicant. Again, If we proceed without these standards the public liability will likely be far greater than simply reimbursing them now for their expenses.

The state can and should then do as better informed folk advised for 5 years.

(a) enact a moratorium on all metallic mining and explorations

(b) establish an expert panel to create an entirely new statute and regulations.

The scope of activity under Tier 1 and Tier 2 is correctable and reversible and can be handled as a zoning variance. The scope of activity under a full blown mining operation requires all that is involved in a sub district rezoning and at that point that should all be available from work in Tier 1 and Tier 2. However, the all important consideration of economic viability of the mineralized deposit and technical and financial capacity of the applicant to implement the plan would still not be present with sufficient clarity without a statutory overhaul. Although I am not clear on whether you have all the details for Tier 1 activity, the next stage in the project, I don't believe that deeming the application complete as you have done, bars asking for further information in the public hearing phase I don't believe it bars ultimately approving only Tier 1 operations now as a zoning variance rather than a full sub district rezoning.

(3) Contrary to what Lew Kingsbury and NRCM have entered on the public comment record and contrary to what LUPC has responded to Wolfden, **use of Tailings in Paste Back Fill is not precluded anywhere in Maine's metallic mining statute or applicable rules, therefore the LUPC letter to Wolfden must be corrected**

As we have explained in our past comment, paste back fill is not included in the definition of “tailings impoundment”. Our statute is silent on “paste back fill”

So LUPC has wrongly cited law in responding to Wolfden that paste backfill is not allowed. Any attorney of modest qualifications can affirm that on a plain reading of the statutory definition of “Tailings Impoundment”.

Here is the statutory definition as it presently stands in Maine’s chapter 200 metallic mining Law

17. Tailings impoundment. "Tailings impoundment" means a surface area, contained by dikes or dams, on which is deposited the slurry of material that is separated from a metallic product in the beneficiation or treatment of minerals, including any surrounding dikes constructed to contain such material. "Tailings impoundment" does not include a lined surface area on which dewatered tailings are stacked.

Paste backfill is a technique used in underground workings to stabilize them which sometimes includes a mix of dewatered tailings. It is a bulk fill of underground cavities but very clearly not a “surface area contained by dams or dykes” per our statutory definition.

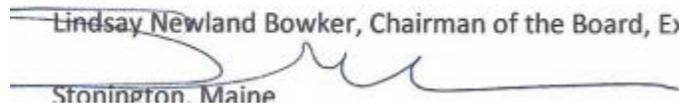
Here is some [info on paste backfill](#) and the use of tailings in it

Stabilizing and refilling underground cavities is an important part of safe closure. There are issues with using tailings to do that in some conditions. At Bathurst where we can expect similarities with our tailings here in Maine as both are in the same geologic VMS belt, the acidic tailings were incompatible with Portland cement so the backfill did not accomplish the intended purpose.

Here in Maine our statute and regs are silent on backfill so we have no standards on the use of paste backfill incorporating tailings as part of closure of the underground workings.

Had we employed an expert panel as we advocated and as Ralph advocated this would have been dealt with in both statute and regulations as part of our policy of allowing underground mining only.

Glad to answer any questions you may have


Lindsay Newland Bowker, Chairman of the Board, Executive Director, Founder
Stonington, Maine

From: [Ann Roberts](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Subject: Wolfden proposed Mine at Pickett Mountain
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 2:43:55 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear friends and protectors of our beautiful and relatively unspoiled Maine,

All over this country standards for protection of Nature, her clean waterways in particular and unspoiled lands and forests are being relaxed in favor of private industry profits. The request by Wolfden to rezone Pickett Mountain to allow for mining of Sulphur and toxic minerals which when exposed to air and water will create an acid that will seep into groundwater, streams and ultimately lakes destroying habit for birds and wildlife and ultimately Maine's quality of place.

It appears that only the most solidly capitalized companies would have the capacity to properly filter and store the tailings and shoulder the costs of purifying the water used in the mining process before returning it to the earth. Wolfden does not appear to be financially viable and so far has a history of exploration **not** processing.

How can you in conscience allow a greenhorn company to forever damage our landscape and pristine natural resources. It would be on your watch if they run out of money and are unable to perform the highest quality of mineral extraction leaving the land unharmed. We need to deeply examine our core values and come to understand that our world is finite and it is time to stop exploiting what can never be replaced for economic gain of a few people!

Thank you for your consideration.

Ann

Ann S. Roberts, President
The Insurance Source of Maine
160 Senott Road
Whitefield, ME 04353
Office: 877.220.1985, 207.549.4990
Cell: 207.242.6541
Knowledge and Caring Combined

From: [Pete LeCours](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Subject: Wolfden Mining Company
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 4:43:57 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

I am looking to confirm you are holding Wolfden Mining Company to the letter of the law on Maine DEP rules in effect at this time. Wolfden shall not be allowed to proceed unless they meet any and all requirements as currently written. I also ask that you confirm Wolfden Mining has the proper financial resources to cover any problems that may arise if they are permitted to mine.

Very respectfully,
Peter LeCours
159 Leavitt st
Mexico, Me. 04257

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Tory Knoepfel](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Subject: Wolfden Rezoning Petition
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 5:47:58 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to implore LUPC to reject Wolfden's application for rezoning due to their clearly demonstrated inability to properly operate proposed mine. I am also writing to express my disbelief in the prospect such a mine could exist in Maine. The prospect is not only disturbing it is detrimental to the work many nature conservancy groups, such as the Natural Resources Council of Maine, have accomplished over years of tireless work. As a Mainer this mine would not only directly impact my livelihood and the lives of fellow Mainers, it would adversely impact the global community. Maine forests and watersheds are some of the last of their kind, literally taking in all the worst pollutants of our industrialized and commercialized world and breathing out new life for us to thrive and prosper. A mine such as one proposed by Wolfden, an organization which is very much so disorganized, underfunded, and woefully inept, would entirely damage that precious life cycle, one so delicate it may not be returned to its initial state should we forego care-taking and reap all but the last drops of industry from the woods and waters of Maine.

I am asking LUPC to please take into consideration the general wellbeing of this generation and the next by opposing and rejecting Wolfden's application for rezoning. As we navigate the tumultuous times we all live in, we will need to imagine our children living in such times for years to come. We do not want to suffer from the processes of mining. We do not want them to suffer, either. Should we choose to preserve the woods and waters, the hills and valleys, of Maine, perhaps we and they can go to them to find a sense of place, peace, and prosperity without salvaging a single material thing.

Thank you for your consideration,

Victoria Knoepfel
York, ME 25 yrs old

From: [Jeff Zabik](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Subject: Wolfden mining in Maine
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 10:43:33 AM

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As Wolfden has not been able to describe how it would treat it's wastewater to protect Maine's groundwater, wildlife, and it's people, they should not be allowed to operate in this state until they can provide proof of being able not to cause harm. If allowed to operate without adequate safeguards the people and wildlife of Maine may suffer for decades, if not centuries due to the long lasting legacy of harm that metal mining often causes.

Jeffrey Zabik
21 Bridge St.
Apt A
Topsham, ME 04086

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Cason Snow](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Subject: Wolfden Resources rezoning
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 2:23:32 PM

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Dear Commission members,

I call upon you to do your duty to the citizens of Maine.

All over this country standards for protection of Nature, her clean waterways in particular and unspoiled lands and forests are being relaxed in favor of private industry profits. The request by Wolfden to rezone Pickett Mountain to allow for mining of Sulphur and toxic minerals which when exposed to air and water will create an acid that will seep into groundwater, streams and ultimately lakes destroying habitat for birds and wildlife and ultimately Maine's quality of place.

It appears that only the most solidly capitalized companies would have the capacity to properly filter and store the tailings and shoulder the costs of purifying the water used in the mining process before returning it to the earth. Wolfden does not appear to be financially viable and so far has a history of exploration not processing.

How can you in conscience allow a greenhorn company to forever damage our landscape and pristine natural resources. It would be on your watch if they run out of money and are unable to perform the highest quality of mineral extraction leaving the land unharmed. We need to deeply examine our core values and come to understand that our world is finite and it is time to stop exploiting what can never be replaced for economic gain of a few people!

Thank you for your consideration.

From: [Lindsay Newland Bowker](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Cc: [Tartakoff, Daniel](#)
Subject: Re: Wolfden Application 779 : Paste Back Fill Not Excluded & Other New Issues
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 6:20:35 PM

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I believe that may require a legal review. The statute itself does not say that. Further, paste backfill is not a tailings deposition plan per se..it is a stabilization of unerground working plan. My comments on paste backfill stand.

Also I am not sure how relevant anything but Tier 1 advanced activity is to the LUPC's immedite considerations. Tier 1 and Tier 2 generate no tailings.

Lindsay Newland Bowker, Executive Director

World Mine Tailings Failures

compiler@WorldMineTailingsFailures.org

01 207 367 5145

From: LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning <WolfdenRezoning.LUPC@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 8:43 AM
To: Lindsay Newland Bowker <compiler@worldminetailingsfailures.org>
Subject: RE: Wolfden Application 779 : Paste Back Fill Not Excluded & Other New Issues

Dear Ms. Bowker:

Thank you for your continued interest in the Wolfden Rezoning Petition. All of your comments will be entered into the record and considered by the Commission when it deliberates and decides on the petition.

Regarding the disposal of paste back fill, the Land Use Planning Commission will be consulting with the Department of Environmental Protection during the staff analysis of the petition. The following may be helpful to future discussions:

DEP Rules [06-096 CMR 200](#), Subchapter 5, Section 21. Mine Waste Unit Design Standards.
C. **Tailings Management.** All tailings must be managed in dry stack tailings management units. Notwithstanding section 21(B), no alternative tailings management designs or technologies will be approved.

Definitions for Tailings and Dry Stack Tailings Management are found in Subchapter 1, Section 2, Definitions.

Sincerely,

Stacie R. Beyer
Planning Manager
Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station,
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022
Cell- 207-557-2535

From: Lindsay Newland Bowker <compiler@worldminetailingsfailures.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 2:14 PM
To: Beyer, Stacie R <Stacie.R.Beyer@maine.gov>
Subject: Wolfden Application 779 : Paste Back Fill Not Excluded & Other New Issues

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Dear Ms. Beyer:

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Lindsay Newland Bowker, Executive Director
World Mine Tailings Failures
compiler@WorldMineTailingsFailures.org
+1 207 367 5145

From: [Lindsay Newland Bowker](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Cc: [Tartakoff, Daniel](#)
Subject: Re: Wolfden Application 779 : Paste Back Fill Not Excluded & Other New Issues
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 6:29:10 PM

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Also depending on the characteristics of the tailings, which we won't know until Tier 1 and Tier 2 testing of the likely tailings there could be safer and better plans for tailings management that it is not in the public interest to preclude.

Lindsay Newland Bowker, Executive Director

World Mine Tailings Failures

compiler@WorldMineTailingsFailures.org
+1 207 367 5145

From: Lindsay Newland Bowker <compiler@worldminetailingsfailures.org>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 10:20 AM
To: LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning <WolfdenRezoning.LUPC@maine.gov>
Cc: Tartakoff, Daniel <Daniel.Tartakoff@legislature.maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Wolfden Application 779 : Paste Back Fill Not Excluded & Other New Issues

I believe that may require a legal review. The statute itself does not say that. Further, paste backfill is not a tailings deposition plan per se..it is a stabilization of unerground working plan. My comments on paste backfill stand.

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Lindsay Newland Bowker, Executive Director

World Mine Tailings Failures

compiler@WorldMineTailingsFailures.org
01 207 367 5145

From: LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning <WolfdenRezoning.LUPC@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 8:43 AM
To: Lindsay Newland Bowker <compiler@worldminetailingsfailures.org>
Subject: RE: Wolfden Application 779 : Paste Back Fill Not Excluded & Other New Issues

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Sincerely,

Stacie R. Beyer
Planning Manager
Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station,
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022
Cell- 207-557-2535

From: Lindsay Newland Bowker <compiler@worldminetailingsfailures.org>

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 2:14 PM

To: Beyer, Stacie R <Stacie.R.Beyer@maine.gov>

Subject: Wolfden Application 779 : Paste Back Fill Not Excluded & Other New Issues

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Lindsay Newland Bowker, Executive Director
World Mine Tailings Failures
compiler@WorldMineTailingsFailures.org
+1 207 367 5145

From: [Jeanette Ford](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Subject: Rezoning
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 9:15:18 PM

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Keep Maine land and waters pure! We'r drink the water you'll poison and live on the land that'll kill us with heavy metals the human body can't handle. It'll destroy tourist industry. This can't happen!

Jeanette Ford
Burnham, Maine

From: [T.Allen](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Subject: Pickett Mt
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 9:12:37 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I can't believe you are even considering this scam. What is it with Maine regulators? I really hate to think that so many people in Maine are open to bribes but it really makes you wonder when time and again we hear about these "projects" that are approved by local officials that turn out to be disasters.

Can Wolfden meet the very strict requirements of Maine's mining laws? If not it should not receive its rezoning!

There are no streams near the proposed mining site that are large enough to put wastewater discharges in so the only option would be for Wolfden to discharge to groundwater. That's your drinking water!

Wolfden claims it can treat wastewater to be as clean as natural groundwater. That's what they all say but no one has ever done it. They claim to be going to use reverse osmosis. That's the very last step of the process. You think they will pay big bucks to make the waste water that clean?

What are they going to do with the highly toxic tailings? Whatever it is it will poison the water and surrounding area for millenia. The stuff isn't going to magically disappear, unlike the company when they've got their money and leave the people of Maine to pay for maintaining the capped waste FOREVER!

And what are they going to use for money? Do they have the financial capacity to complete a complex and expensive project as required by Maine law? "Funding for the Pickett Mountain Mine project to date has been a combination of small equity raises and timber sales from the property" per NRCM. As well as: "This is not a description of a company with good prospects for making a billion-dollar investment, which is what the proposed mine would cost. **Maine cannot afford to have mining companies here that would work on the cheap and leave Maine taxpayers paying cleanup costs.** The world is full of examples of disastrous, contaminated mining sites that will cause perpetual pollution because the companies involved did not have the resources necessary to mine safely or pay for cleanup. Wolfden has every appearance of being one of those companies, and Maine's environment and taxpayers would suffer because of it."

And the worst part is it's close to Baxter State Park! You want to destroy the tourist industry as well? No one wants to visit an area where the air is polluted and and everything downwind is dying from acid rain

Maine has seen these types of scams perpetrated on us in the past and the Maine taxpayers are tired of getting ripped off. This is a bad deal in every way. I guarantee you will be looking at a lawsuit if you go ahead with this project because none of the Maine laws regarding mining can be met by this company. Please put a stop to this now and save the taxpayers of Maine from

having to fight you in court.

Sincerely,

Tracey Allen
113 Ash Swamp Rd
Scarborough, ME 04074

From: [Celina Binns](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Subject: RE: rezoning of Pickett Mountain
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 9:18:15 PM

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I strongly oppose the request by Wolfden to rezone Pickett Mountain for mining and ore processing. Their proposed mine poses a great risk to the environment. Mining is a hazardous industry that often results in irreversible damage to landscape and groundwater. The addition of ore processing on site makes that risk even greater. Wolfden has no track record of successfully operating a mine nor have they been able to provide an example of any mine and ore processing facility that is capable of meeting Maine's requirement that discharged water must be as clean as natural groundwater. In addition, it does not appear that they have the financial strength to take on a project of this size and complexity. We should not take the risk of allowing Wolfden to take on this project with limited funds and then leave Maine stuck with the costs of dealing with the inevitable environmental devastation.

As the facilities at Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument are built out, the area will become a very attractive destination, bringing tourism and tourist's dollars to the region. Allowing a mine to operate nearby will undermine that potential.

Please say NO to rezoning of Pickett Mountain!

Thank you,
Celina Binns
Gouldsboro, Maine

From: [Catherine Schmitt](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Subject: reject petition to rezone from Wolfden
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 9:08:28 AM

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Dear Commissioners,

Please reject Wolfden Resources petition to rezone land for metal mining. I am concerned about the location of a mine in proximity to Wabanaki Territory (especially noise, traffic, and pollution in an otherwise intact landscape) and in proximity to the East Branch Penobscot River, which is habitat for endangered Atlantic salmon. Protecting headwater streams and groundwaters is critical to maintaining adequate water quality and quantity to sustain salmon and brook trout and the aquatic food web. The company has NOT demonstrated capacity to comply with Maine's mining laws and regulations, and thus represents a threat to Maine's environment.

Catherine Schmitt
Bangor, ME

From: [Lindsay Newland Bowker](#)
To: [Beyer, Stacie R](#); [Loyzim, Melanie](#)
Cc: [Tartakoff, Daniel](#)
Subject: Liquefaction REstance of Thickened Tailings (Dry Stack)
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 10:21:46 AM

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https://www.academia.edu/14760867/LIQUEFACTION_RESISTANCE_OF_THICKENED_TAILINGS?email_work_card=view-paper

Perhaps all staff at LUPC and at DEP who might be involved in metallic mine approvals may want to read this. That the immediate application is not Bauxite and that earthquake temors are not a likely trigger in that application, it is important to undersand that the granulemetry of the tailings determines the efficacy of this technology.

The Maine statute does not say what the regs say. The staute says that surface depositions of tailings may only be "Dry Stack" (thickened tailings). It has no requirement in considering a zoning change or varainace even for advanced explorations to prove that the ultimate tailings are amenable to this technology. This can actually be detemined well in advance through lab testing and field or lab testing.

Also note the very speficic slope limitations of this tehcnology which are absent by refernce in the statute and absent by requirement in the regs for enteirng advanced explorations.

I see no bar, despite the gap n the DEP regs and the absence of specifcs in the LUPC zoning varaince/zoning chnage process from requiring this demonstration before allowing even Tier 1 advanced explorations.

My Comments, Dave Chambers the United Nations (Liga Noronha) are cied in this Chemical Engineer magazine article on the the recently released Global Tailings Review backed by \$14 trllion in insiutinal investments. Not one of the GTR stnadrds is adequaeely refelcted in either Maine's NRCM written staute or reg for metallic mining.

<https://www.thechemicalengineer.com/news/initiative-launches-first-global-standard-for-safer-mining-waste-storage/>

These stanrdsapply for Dry Stack as well. It is not an automatic guaraneed safe method of tailings manaement as our statute and reg suppose.

Lindsay Newland Bowker, Executive Director

World Mine Tailings Failures

compiler@WorldMineTailingsFailures.org

+1 207 367 5145

From: [Harry Opitz](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Subject: Rezoning
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:04:13 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I oppose mining in our area. I'm currently living in Mt Chase. I love our rivers and streams and lakes and good well drinking water. Sincerely Harry Opitz, Mt Chase Maine

From: [Bruce Mastron](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Subject: wolfden project
Date: Saturday, August 22, 2020 1:25:51 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please halt this assault on our natural treasures in Maine. The last thing we need is to have our streams and rivers becoming contaminated with acid and toxic metals, killing all sorts of wildlife and sickening, and possibly killing, humans.

At the same time, Maine taxpayers can hardly afford cleaning up this mess likely to be stuck with us by an operation whose financial ability to even remotely meet its questionable claims of protection is in grave doubt.

Stop it now. To move forward is just a waste of money and a waste of resources better spent on protecting what God gave us, not ruining it.

Preserving nature means jobs.

This is nothing but a job-killer and the taxpayers' worst enemy.

Thank you,

Bruce Mastron

From: [Rona Fried](#)
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Subject: Reject Wolfden Mining Application for Rezoning
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 12:41:21 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To LUPC,

I strongly urge you to reject Wolfden Resources' rezoning application that would allow it to build a metal mine on 528 acres in Maine.

Why did you accept the company's rezoning application as "complete" when it has so many flaws? And allowing a company with so little actual mining history to take on a project with so many potential environmental problems for Maine?

Are you aware of this? Metal mining is an Extremely Damaging industry – this project could produce hazardous pollution that persists for centuries! And lethal air and water pollution from combining sulfur and toxic metals in mining waste. This creates Acid, which contaminates streams and lakes and kills aquatic wildlife. Toxic metals like lead and arsenic are released, harming ecosystems and humans.

Wolfden also plans to build a full-scale mill and ore processing facility onsite. This dangerous process creates toxic mine tailings that must be stored FOREVER!

Since there no large streams near the proposed mining site that can handle wastewater discharges, they will have to directly into groundwater – from where it will make its way to streams, rivers, and lakes. DEP told Wolfden that it must treat wastewater to be as clean as natural groundwater. Wolfden claims it can do this, but no one should believe the company.

This is not a project that should be taken lightly!!

Wolfden is making unrealistic claims about its abilities and finances. According to Maine's rezoning rules, Wolfden has to prove it has the financial capacity to complete this project. Only financially strong companies can complete a demanding, dangerous project like this, and Wolfden's finances are not strong.

Look into this!

Why are you so quick and willing to give away Maine's precious ecosystems? When will it finally be time to respect and cherish the nature we still have in Maine and say NO to any project that would ruin that? Where are your priorities?!

You'll say "jobs", of course. But the fact is: there are many more jobs restoring and protecting nature than there ever will be for destructive projects like Mines.

Rona Fried, Ph.D.
207-627-5150

From: [Holly Wright](#)
To: [Beyer, Stacie R](#)
Subject: Re: to the accepted the Wolfden Mt. Chase LLC (Wolfden) zoning petition as complete from Holly Wright
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 10:11:25 AM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Stacie Beyer,

Thanks for re-responding. I completely missed your original response. My apologies.

I am very concerned about the growth of business tapping into Maine's existing water resources. Climate change, summer droughts, high volume water bottling and new businesses that require high amounts of water and or the prospects of contamination of the water tables are issues in part for my concern. Water is Maine's most precious resource. Protecting it and its sources should be Maine's priority. To presume it is, ahead of short or long-term financial gain for the State would be naive on my part.

There are many states who are now suffering from the inability to hold companies responsible for the damage they cause to the land and waters because there were no standards and required restorative responsibilities set in place prior to the award of the permits. These states do not have the money to take the companies to court to hold them responsible for correcting their damage. They certainly do not have the money to pay for the costs of restoration of the water quality and land. Prevention of damage from the get go should be the standard for risk impacts.

I have more questions, but if you want me to send them to different staff member, I will do that.

Will there be a complete array of environmental impact reports/statements conducted before a permit is given? Will this include a projection of how much water the company would use in the process of the mining?

Does Maine have in place reclamation policies in regard to the permitted areas? Where there will be need for restoration to sites and water quality from the environmental impacts caused by the mining processes does Maine have policies in place that the company will be held responsible for costs and the work necessary?

Does Maine require ongoing watershed testing of all affected water sources and downstream run off including for tailings pond integrity?

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Holly Wright
Winthrop, ME

From: Beyer, Stacie R <Stacie.R.Beyer@maine.gov>

Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 8:59 AM

To: Holly Wright <springtideatelier@outlook.com>

Cc: Shores, Kelly <Kelly.Shores@maine.gov>

Subject: RE: to the accepted the Wolfden Mt. Chase LLC (Wolfden) zoning petition as complete from Holly Wright

Good morning, Holly.

I replied to your original message on July 28, 2020. I am sorry, if you didn't receive or you missed the reply. I will forward it to you, so you will have a copy for your record. Here are answers to the questions you pose in your August 28, 2020 e-mail.

From what country does Wolfden, its owner operators originate?

Canada

What metals and or minerals are they mining for?

Wolfden is not currently mining on the Pickett Mountain site. They first need LUPC approval to rezone the property and then approval from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for a mining permit. However, the minerals of interest at the site are **Zinc, Lead, Copper, Silver and Gold.**

I hope that you receive this e-mail message. If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Stacie R. Beyer
Planning Manager

Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station,
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022
Cell- 207-557-2535

From: Shores, Kelly <Kelly.Shores@maine.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 8:49 AM
To: Holly Wright <springtideatelier@outlook.com>
Cc: Beyer, Stacie R <Stacie.R.Beyer@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: to the accepted the Wolfden Mt. Chase LLC (Wolfden) zoning petition as complete from Holly Wright

Hi Holly,

Stacie Beyer is the LUPC lead for this project. I've CC'd her on this email, and she can answer your questions.

Thank you,
Kelly

Kelly M. Shores
Environmental Specialist III
Land Use Planning Commission
Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

191 Main Street
E. Millinocket, ME 04430
(207)399-2176

From: Holly Wright <springtideatelier@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 11:12 AM
To: Shores, Kelly <Kelly.Shores@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: to the accepted the Wolfden Mt. Chase LLC (Wolfden) zoning petition as complete from Holly Wright

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I sent an inquiry to your email on July 28, 2020 and either I missed your reply or I never got one. Could you please answer my inquiry:

From what country does Wolfden, its owner operators originate?

What metals and or minerals are they mining for?

Sincerely, Holly Wright Winthrop, Maine

From: Holly Wright <springtideatelier@outlook.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 1:39 PM

To: Kelly.Shores@maine.gov <Kelly.Shores@maine.gov>

Subject: accepted the Wolfden Mt. Chase LLC (Wolfden) zoning petition as complete

Hello!

From what country does Wolfden, it's owner operators originate?

What metals and or minerals are they mining for?

Holly Wright
Winthrop, ME



Stacie R. Beyer
Planning Manager
Land Use Planning Commission

Via Electronic Mail

August 31, 2020

Dear Ms. Beyer:

I am writing on behalf of Native Fish Coalition. Our intent is to ask Maine's Land Use Planning Commission to reject the rezoning application submitted by Wolfden Resources for a metal mine covering over 500 acres near Baxter Stare Park.

Native Fish Coalition (NFC) is a 501c3 non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to protect, preserve, and restore wild native fish. Maine's wild native brook trout, rare Arctic charr, and federally endangered Atlantic salmon are focal species for Maine NFC, are just three of many aquatic species that would be adversely affected by this mine.

NFC is opposed to the rezoning application because of the many negative impacts of mining on aquatic ecosystems:

- Mining uses large amounts of water in processing ore, often drawing down surface and groundwater levels to dangerously low levels.
- Erosion and sedimentation caused by mine and road construction and upgrades have the strong potential to destroy benthic habitat in rivers and streams which disrupt the natural food chain resulting in declines in fish populations.
- Heavy metals from discharged mine effluent, seepage from tailings, processing chemicals, and waste rock impoundments have a history of contaminating surface water through direct discharge and leaching into groundwater, in turn causing irreparable harm to aquatic ecosystems, fish and other organisms. Water pollution from mine waste rock and tailings may need to be managed for decades, if not centuries, after closure. Using pumps and pipes to collect contaminated water does not guarantee that contaminated mine drainage can be fully contained.
- Acid mine drainage severely degrades water quality and kills many beneficial aquatic organisms.
- We question whether there is a remediation plan in place in the event that Wolfden fails financially or walks away, leaving lasting environmental damage wherein taxpayers may have to pay for clean-up.

In the final analysis, mining poses a very serious threat to Maine's aquatic ecosystems, critically important tourism economy, and quality of place. Can we take the chance with so many critical uncertainties that Wolfden can operate a mine for 10 years without seriously damaging Maine's natural resources? For these reasons, we again ask that you reject Wolfden's proposed mining operation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Tom Johnson
Maine State Chair, Native Fish Coalition

CC: NFC Maine Board
 NFC Maine Advisory Council
 NFC National Board

From: d-phillips@maine.rr.com
To: [LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning](#)
Subject: Mining threat
Date: Tuesday, September 01, 2020 8:03:52 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear folks at LUPC -

My husband and I recently learned of a submitted rezoning petition to LUPC for a metal mine at Picket Mountain near Mt. Chase and very close to Upper and Lower Shin Ponds.

We are very concerned about this as we have owned property on Upper Shin Pond for over 11 years and have been building a place for us to be able to retire to in the very near future.

Along with us, there are countless others that enjoy the special beauty, pristine waters, clean air, wild life, and recreational adventures that this area brings.

The damage that seems quite apparent that would affect the area from amped up mining is something that can not be ignored. This has happened in so many places across our country - please do not let it happen to Maine.

Please honor the NRCM's work, as well as other environmental groups, Maine's Indian tribes and people across the state in accomplishing the most protective mining laws in the country.

I implore you to please REJECT Wolfden's application for rezoning because the company has no prospects of being able to operate their proposed mine without seriously damaging Maine's environment.

Respectfully - Deborah Phillips
South Portland, Maine