

From: [chris malik](#)
To: [DEP, MiningComments2016](#)
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Protections for surface and ground water quality, and aquatic life use support should be strengthened by the State of Maine not weakened.

The operations proposed at Bald Mountain and other sites have potential to cause long term and irreparable damage to human health and aquatic ecosystems of very high value. The value of those resources must be accounted for when decisions and conditions for permitting and compliance assurance are designed.

The long term damage from oxidation of metal sulfides in tailings and exposed soils needs to be addressed fully and completely for a period of time that reflects the rare and valuable nature of the fragile ecosystems.

The nature of our climate, increasing and greater risk of much larger storms, dictates that engineering of structures to contain tailings, mine waste, and other industrial activities, will likely not be adequate to withstanding design year storms. A monitoring plan to ensure against failure, and bonds necessary to repair and reinforce damages, should be in place, and held for longer, rather than shorter, time frames.

Risk of water pollution from runoff at mining operations during and after operations is much greater as the magnitude of storms increases. For this reason typical industrial stormwater control requirements are not adequate, and should be much more stringent, and also very actively monitored maintained and enforced.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans should be updated and subject to revision and public comment. Funding must be ensured for long term and appropriate training for monitoring and staff to enact maintenance and control measure as well as enforcement personnel.

The costs to ensure minimal damage to the environments should be borne by the operators of the facility, not by taxpayers, and compromises are not acceptable for any reason.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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