

From: rusheen@pwless.net
To: [DEP, MiningComments2016](#)
Subject: Metal mining regulations
Date: Saturday, September 24, 2016 9:46:45 AM

September 24, 2016
Cynthia Bertocci

Dear Cynthia Bertocci,

Please deliver these comments to the BEP.

Dear Chairman Parker and members of the Board of Environmental Protection:

I urge you to reject the latest version of DEP's weak mining rules. I am very concerned that these weak rules would allow mining corporations to pollute our water and harm our woods and wildlife for centuries. They also would not protect taxpayers from having to pay for the cleanup of mining disasters.

Maine's environment and economy are inextricably linked. Maine's rich outdoor heritage and natural scenic beauty are at the heart of our tourism industry, a critical part of our economy. Thousands of Maine people need our state's healthy environment to make their living and provide for their families. Guides, commercial fishermen, and sporting camp owners all depend on Maine's clean water and abundant fish and wildlife. Mining pollution would be a grave threat to these resources.

I have been a resident of Perham for 27 years and believe metal mining poses a direct threat to the Fish River and surrounding watersheds in Aroostook County. Unpermitted Tier One and Two exploration is of concern as these activities alone have the potential to contaminate the clean water sources in the immediate area and change the character of the environment. They are basically mini-mines. No amount of "reclamation" can return an area back to its original character.

In my opinion, the risks of mining pollution far outweighs any profits to be had by a corporation whose concerns will always be the bottom line.

Please follow the lead of both the 126th and 127th Legislatures, and reject these rules.

Sincerely,

Rita Rogers
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