

**From:** [jody.spear](#)  
**To:** [DEP, MiningComments2016](#)  
**Subject:** Say NO to Weak Mining Rules!  
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TO; Maine Board of Environmental Protection

Safeguarding of Maine's ground and surface water should be the top priority of environmental-protection appointees. Instead, DEP functionaries have proposed mining rules that are irresponsible and will jeopardize some of our most treasured natural resources, including Public Reserved Lands. Tailings impoundments and rock-waste piles, especially in floodplains, pose unacceptable risks to Maine's water resources, and they inevitably result in contamination.

I am a close neighbor to the Callahan mine site, which continues to leach heavy metals 40 years after closure of the mine. The Superfund cleanup, underway by EPA and DEP scientists, is estimated to cost over \$45 million before it is completed -- all costs borne by taxpayers. The present proposed rules offer no guarantee that mine operators will bear responsibility for future cleanup costs. Twice before, we have rejected weak mining rules, and again we say NO.

Yours sincerely,

Jody Spear, Harborside