



Maine Conservation Voters

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FOLLOW UP COMMENTS OF MAINE CONSERVATION VOTERS
TO THE BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OPPOSING THE DRAFT CHAPTER 200 RULES FOR METALLIC MINERAL MINING

October 28, 2013

Good day Chairman Foley and members of the Board of Environmental Protection. My name is Beth Ahearn and I offer comments additional to those submitted by hard copy on October 17th, 2013, on behalf of Maine Conservation Voters.

On October 17th, you heard much about the promise of jobs that mining operations will bring to Maine. Even if the claims are true, there is no reason to adopt weak rules that could allow mining operations to jeopardize Maine's waters and taxpayers. However, we do question Irving's claim. Irving has estimated about 300 jobs at Bald Mountain after conducting some research. The US Department of Labor maintains employment statistics on mining operations, so using their data we looked for and found an open-pit copper mine employing approximately 300 people. The one that we came up with is Mercatominerals' Mineral Park Mine just north of Kingman, Arizona. The pit of this mine is over 2,200 acres, and the mine processes 50,000 tons of ore per day, or about 18 million tons per year. The mine reports approximately 265 full time employees including Engineering, Supervision, and hourly labor. Department of Labor reports 310 jobs total. Since this mine is well over three times the size of the mine proposed for Bald Mountain, the estimates of "up to 300" employees seem as if they might be wildly exaggerated.

I'm including here the names of over 2000 people from across the state who have signed an online petition. Since we handed you the petition on October 17th, the signatures have quadrupled; 1500 more people have signed the petition. The petition states the following:

We need mining rules that are smart and fair. Maine's mining rules should include strong clean-water protections, and taxpayers should never be left footing the bill for cleanup costs after mining corporations have extracted the profits.

Thank you for the opportunity to add to our earlier comments.

Sincerely, Beth Ahearn