

140704

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 4:29 PM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: new Ajax Mine Kamloops

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Orange Category

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 4:45 PM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: new Ajax Mine Kamloops

Terry Lake MLA Environment Minister

I am concerned over the proposed mine near the existing Ajax Pit.

s.22

s.22

s.22

In this day and age, a safe and secure food source is every bit as important as supplying metals to off-shore countries. I have been to two information meetings put on by the Abacus Mining company, and when asked specific questions, they are very non-specific and respond with "it is under study". I would like to speak with you about this situation. The system of dealing with the waste or tailings is not a common solution, and when asked they told me that it has been used twice, once in Alaska and the other in Chile—both being much smaller operations. It brings up my doubts in my mind.

s.22

s.22 I can not stand by and not bring this matter to your consideration. Thank you very much and I will be waiting to hear from you. Yours truly

s22

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: WWW ENVMail ENV:EX
Sent: Friday, July 8, 2011 9:45 AM
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, EMH EMH:EX
Subject: 140704 - Michell - Ajax Project

Reference: 140704

July 8, 2011

S22

Email: s.22

Dear S22

Thank you for your email of May 11, 2011, regarding the proposed Ajax Project in Kamloops, British Columbia (BC). I apologize for the delay in responding.

I understand that you are concerned about the effects of proposed mining operations s.22
As a resident of Kamloops, I can assure you that I am aware of the importance of grasslands and the ranching industry, both to the environment and to communities such as ours.

The mining proposal that you refer to is in an early stage of its environmental assessment (EA), and there will be several opportunities during the EA process for you to review key documents, ask questions and provide input. The next opportunity for public comment will deal specifically with the Draft Application Information Requirements, that is, the scope, procedures, methods and studies that will be required of the proponent, including the system for dealing with waste and tailings. The BC Government is committed to ensuring that mining operations in this province meet the highest environmental standards. Ministry of Environment staff will continue to work closely with our colleagues at the Ministry of Energy and Mines to help ensure sustainable mining practices in British Columbia.

To comment on the Ajax Mine project, or to track the progress of the EA, please visit the Environmental Assessment Office website at www.eao.gov.bc.ca. The current comment period is open until July 11, 2011.

I have shared a copy of your enquiry with the Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines, for his review and consideration.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Terry Lake
Minister of Environment

cc: Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 4:45 PM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: new Ajax Mine Kamloops

Terry Lake MLA Environment Minister

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s.22

s.22 I can not stand by and not bring this matter to your consideration. Thank you very much and I will be waiting to hear from you. Yours truly

S22

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

143079

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2011 11:30 AM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Letter recieved in CO
Attachments: DOC001.PDF

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Orange Category

-----Original Message-----

From: Kully, Paula [<mailto:Paula.Kully@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 2:44 PM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: Letter recieved in CO

Please see attached.

Paula Kully, Constituency Assistant
Terry Lake, MLA Kamloops North-Thompson
Minister of Environment

Email: paula.kully@leg.bc.ca
Phone: 250-554-5413 Fax: 250-554-5417
Toll Free: 1-888-299-0805
Website: www.terrylakemla.bc.ca

9 - 111 Oriole Road
Kamloops BC, V2C 4N6
Phone: 250-314-6031
Fax: 250-314-6040
Email: Kevin.Krueger.mla@eq.bc.ca

Constituency Office
Kamloops - South Thompson

Fax

To: Paula From: Yolanda
Fax: 250.554.5417 Pages: 3
Phone: _____ Date: June 15, 2011
Re: _____ CC: _____

☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

Please find attached letter from
S22 - addressed
to Hon. Terry Lake / Min of Environment.
Kevin wanted to be sure
Terry received this.

Thanks
Y

MP Terry Lake,
Minister of Environment

s.22

1st / 11

MP Kevin Krueger

Dear Sirs:

s.22

copy
to
Terry
Lake
ple

The Ajax Mine project proposes to construct the "East waste rock facility"

s.22

s.22

s.22

s.22

The Ajax Mine project proposes to consume the entire area on the north side of Goose Lake road between the Long Lake Road at Knutsford and the Coquihalla Highway. This is an area of approximately ten square miles, with a footprint of more than six thousand acres, mostly comprised of valuable grasslands. This quiet, valuable grassland valley is an active ranching area, includes a very popular fishing lake (Jacko), & abundant wildlife. Peterson Creek, emptying out of that lake, wends its way thru the entire valley (the mine has plans to relocate it in two separate areas), finally flowing thru the City & into the South Thompson River, the vital salmon fishway to the Adams River salmon spawning grounds. It also includes an area inhabited by "at risk" Sharp-tailed grouse, & is very close to the migration fly-way resting area of the Sandhill Crane, a large population of mule deer, & many other forms of wildlife. The Goose Lake road in this valley is used extensively by many recreationalists, (hikers, cyclists, runners, fishermen), with one of the connecting roads (Lac Jeune road) leading to a popular x-country ski area, summer cabins, a large provincial govt. campground, & a year-round residential area at two other lakes. Also, this road is an important route used by ranchers to drive cattle to & from their summer ranges. This road, on which the tailings pond would be located, is the same road that would be used by the mine service vehicles, construction equipment & various types of

machinery & an estimated 14 loaded ore trucks per day, plus another 14 ore trucks making the return trip; it would also be the route used by 1000 workers during the construction phase & 400 for the following 25-27 years. Beside the fact that this proposal infringes directly on the lives of about 30 people, most of whom have lived in the Goose Lake road area many years, some all their lives, & their homes are immediately adjacent to the areas of the ore pit, tailings pond & waste rock facilities, this 24/7 operation is not more than a 15-20 walk from the hundreds of homes in Upper Aberdeen & Pineview Valley (the western portion of this mine is within Kamloops city limits, the eastern portion is adjacent to the southern border of City limits). These areas adjacent to the mine's various facilities are in the City's "KamPlan", slated for future development. Unfortunately the message we get is all about the many jobs this would create — not a word about the present taxpayers, their investments in their homes & their rights to a peaceful environment.

Through reading info on other similar projects that have undergone the EA, there does not appear to be even one that is in such close proximity to a large residential population. Besides all the other environmental conflicts, this alone is a huge conflict of interest in the making with nearby residents, because of the possible 400 jobs it would create, & how "sustainable" would the estimated 1000 jobs be that are supposedly required for the construction phase? However, we have been reminded that "money talks", but at the same time, even though the city would benefit from taxes paid by the mining company & employees would most likely bolster the city's economy through housing & every day expenses, this

foreign company will likely be taking their profits back home. It is interesting to note that the KGHM Polska Miedz company profile states that as "one of the largest producers of copper & silver in the world...& a significant part of the WIG20 index...the company generates enormous profits & holds a strategic interest for the Polish economy". Obviously, & rightly so, their own economy is their priority. (And since this is the first time they will have ever had an operation on foreign soil, will they be able to operate as profitably under Canadian & BC regulations as they do under their own country's regulations?)

Considering the BC Govt. is reimbursing 30% of the Abacus Mining & Exploration Corps' millions of dollars spent on exploration, & it is also understood there would be a substantial subsidy from BC Hydro, & possibly what else, we as Kamloops taxpayers, as well all Government Members & Ministries,

City Hall administration & Council members & local First Nations, must reconcile the cost, which would appear to be a lot more than it is worth, which is not measured just in dollars, but what sort of a legacy we are leaving for future Kamloopsians when we know this entire area, so valuable for its already "endangered" ranching industry with its thousands of acres of precious grasslands, the many & varied types of wildlife that live there, as well as the many forms of recreation it provides for us at our own "back door", will be totally desecrated. Rehabilitation of some components of this project is not possible, & in other areas, is far from satisfactory.

I am asking you to seriously consider this project not only for its serious environmental affects, but for the location which has no precedence, & remind you that money is not everything.

Thank you,

s.22

143084

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2011 11:30 AM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Ajax Kamloops mine

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Orange Category

From: Lake.MLA, Terry [<mailto:Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 11:29 AM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Ajax Kamloops mine

From: s.22
Sent: June-17-11 7:26 AM
To: Lake.MLA, Terry
Subject: Ajax Kamloops mine

Dear Mr Lake,

I attended the information meeting re the proposed mine last night.

I was shocked to find out that our governments would even entertain the prospects of putting such a huge development less than 2 km away from major subdivisions. I would expect this type of thing in a 3rd world country, not in Canada, not in BC, and certainly not in Kamloops where we should be protecting our taxpayers. To go into the health, environmental, stand and quality of living issues, etc would take pages.

I am appalled by the lack of respect shown to the Kamloops citizens, and in particular the Aberdeen residents(imagine the loss in property value in some of our finest areas).

How do we attract people to our community, tourists, students and faculty for TRU, tournaments, etc, when we do this to our community.

Two kilometers is a short walk, imagine the dust, noise, congestion, etc in that part of our city.

Economic advantages of the mine are certain to be offset by loss of tourism, loss of property value for Aberdeen residents, health costs, etc. Now longer will we be the "Tournament Capital". No longer will we attract retirees.

Please do not try to appease us by pointing out that it is just in the review stage. The record of both governments shows that while they do force changes and procedures upon the mining companies, approvals are basically a rubber stamp.

What is your position on the location of this project within 2 km of the Aberdeen taxpayers, right in the

backyard?

Best regards

s.22

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2011 11:30 AM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Ajax Kamloops mine

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Orange Category

From: s.22
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 12:57 PM
To: Lake.MLA, Terry LASS:EX
Cc: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: Re: Ajax Kamloops mine

Thank you,

I would suggest that it is not only the role of that department, in Mr Lake,s role as MLA I am certain he is concerned about the direction Kamloops is taking, and his vision of the community.

S22

On Fri, Jun 17, 2011 at 11:29 AM, Lake.MLA, Terry <Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca> wrote:

Thank you for your email to Terry Lake, MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson. As your correspondence relates to his role as Minister of Environment, we have taken the opportunity to forward your email to his ministerial account, which is Env.Minister@gov.bc.ca.

From: s.22
Sent: June-17-11 7:26 AM
To: Lake.MLA, Terry
Subject: Ajax Kamloops mine

Dear Mr Lake,

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Please do not try to appease us by pointing out that it is just in the review stage. The record of both governments shows that while they do force changes and procedures upon the mining companies, approvals are basically a rubber stamp.

What is your position on the location of this project within 2 km of the Aberdeen taxpayers, right in the backyard?

Best regards

s.22

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2011 5:59 PM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: GCC Press Release
Attachments: GCC Ajax Press Release 2011 June 13.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Orange Category

From: Lake.MLA, Terry [<mailto:Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 3:01 PM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: FW: GCC Press Release

From: Jim White s.22
Sent: June-15-11 10:04 AM
To: Lake.MLA, Terry
Subject: GCC Press Release

Dear Mr. Lake,

Attached is the press release from the Grasslands Conservation Council about the proposed Ajax Mine, forwarded for your information.

Jim White, Director
Grasslands Conservation Council of BC

s.22

Press Release

For immediate Release

Grasslands Council Questions Ajax Mine Proposal

The proposed Ajax Mine promises several hundred full time jobs and an expanded tax base, both very attractive to Kamloops. But some residents are asking, 'What kind of community do we want to live in 10 years from now? Are the benefits worth the costs?'. The proposed mine is located immediately south and west of the Aberdeen and Pineview Valley neighbourhoods.

Not only is the proposed development close to present and future residential areas, it directly impacts 2500 hectares (about 10 square miles) of grasslands. Less than 1 per cent of the province is grassland and that area is critical to the cattle industry and to one-third of the rare and endangered wildlife species. Many Kamloops residents use grasslands for varied forms of recreation. '10 square miles of grassland is a lot to lose to a single project', notes David Zirnhelt, Chair of the council.

The Grasslands Conservation Council (GCC) has expressed concerns to the mine proponents about the impact on ranching, wildlife, and natural landscape values. Widespread industrial use of the area would diminish the recreation value of the scenic Goose Lake Road area, frequently used by Kamloops residents for birding, biking, running, and dog walking. There are also issues about the wildlife values along Peterson Creek, and whether Jocko Lake would survive the development of a 500 metre deep open pit right beside it.

Some rural and city residents have expressed concern about the potential noise and dust impact on their health. The prevailing wind is from the proposed mine toward the residential areas.

When GCC met with them, the mine proponents did not discuss the city plans for future residential development in the area that is now proposed as a waste rock dump. An assessment of the grassland values in the Aberdeen area was done for the City of Kamloops by GCC several years ago. Very high natural values were noted and incorporated into the Aberdeen Community Plan, resulting in modification of community design to minimize grassland impact. The mine could displace that future planned housing development to other areas of important grasslands.

'GCC members hope that the mine proponents will be offering innovative solutions to the many concerns at their public open house on Thursday, June 16, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Kamloops Towne Lodge', said Zirnhelt.

From: Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia
Contact information: David Zirnhelt
250 243 2243
DavidZirnhelt@yahoo.com

To: NL News, CFJC News
Kamloops Daily, Kamloops This Week
cc Cathy McLeod MP
cc Kevin Krueger MLA
cc Terry Lake Minister of Environment
cc Mayor Peter Milobar and Kamloops City Council

Date: June 12 2011

144071

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Lake.MLA, Terry [Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca]
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2011 8:38 AM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: FW: CEAR, Assessment 11-03-62225

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Min-Sig

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22
Sent: June-23-11 6:04 PM
To: Ajax@ceaa-acee.gc.ca
Cc: Krueger.MLA, Kevin; Lake.MLA, Terry; mayor@kamloops.ca
Subject: CEAR, Assessment 11-03-62225

Re Propose Ajax Mine at Kamloops BC.

Dear Sirs:

s.22
s.22 strongly oppose the development of an open pit mine and associated facilities partially within the City of Kamloops. The proposed Ajax Mine is, in our opinion, far too close to homes, schools, recreation facilities and community activities. We believe the mine will have short term and long term negative effects on our quality of life. We are of the opinion that the mine will also have a negative impact on the lives of citizens of Kamloops.

Consequently, we urge you and the authority vested in provincial and city officials to oppose (do not approve) this development.

yours sincerely,

s.22

CC Kevin Kruegar, MLA Kamloops
Terry Lake MLA Kamloops-North
Peter Milobar, Mayor City of Kamloops BC

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Lake.MLA, Terry [Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca]
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2011 8:37 AM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Ajax Mine Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Min-Sig

From: s.22
Sent: June-23-11 6:17 PM
To: Kevin.Kruegar.mla@leg.bc.ca
Cc: mayor@kamloops.ca
Subject: Ajax Mine Proposal

Dear Kevin, Peter and Terry,

s22 I strongly urge you to oppose this proposal to develop an open-pit mine and related facilities within and adjacent to Kamloops. We believe, the mine, if allowed to proceed, will negatively affect our quality of life and enjoyment. We believe it will also have a negative effect on the quality of life for the citizens of Kamloops. The proposed mine is far too close to homes, schools, recreation facilities and the community of Kamloops. Please do what you can to oppose this development.

sincerely,

s22

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Loiacono, Sabrina ENV:EX
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2011 8:39 PM
To: Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX
Subject: RE: 144071 - Please draft Minister's response

Sounds good. Thank you for the attention to detail.

S.

From: Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2011 5:05 PM
To: Loiacono, Sabrina ENV:EX
Subject: FW: 144071 - Please draft Minister's response

Hi Sabrina:

This is the mine in the Minister's constituency. You originally requested Min Sig (this is EAO, not MOE). Are you ok with converting this to FYI, as noted below?

Thanks,
Sara

-----Original Message-----

From: EAO Administration EAO:EX
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2011 1:14 PM
To: Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX
Cc: Cochrane, Marlene EAO:EX
Subject: FW: 144071 - Please draft Minister's response

Hello Sara,
Marlene told me that as Minister Lake has been only cc'd on the letter below from S22 and this letter was addressed to the federal government (CEAA), that CEAA should respond, not EAO.

I can update and complete the cliff log re: this letter.
Please let me know if there is anything else I can help with.

Regards,
Alice Loring

-----Original Message-----

From: Mathews, Lindsay EAO:EX
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2011 8:58 AM
To: EAO Administration EAO:EX
Subject: FW: 144071 - Please draft Minister's response

-----Original Message-----

From: Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, July 4, 2011 10:57 AM
To: Mathews, Lindsay EAO:EX
Cc: Evans, Megan J EAO:EX
Subject: 144071 - Please draft Minister's response

Hi Lindsay:

Could you please draft a Minister's response to the attached incoming? Please confirm and we'll close our file.

Thanks,
Sara

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22
Sent: June-23-11 6:04 PM
To: Ajax@ceaa-acee.gc.ca
Cc: Krueger.MLA, Kevin; Lake.MLA, Terry; mayor@kamloops.ca
Subject: CEAR, Assessment 11-03-62225

Re Propose Ajax Mine at Kamloops BC.

Dear Sirs:

s.22
s.22 strongly oppose the development of an open pit mine and associated facilities partially within the City of Kamloops. The proposed Ajax Mine is, in our opinion, far too close to homes, schools, recreation facilities and community activities. We believe the mine will have short term and long term negative effects on our quality of life. We are of the opinion that the mine will also have a negative impact on the lives of citizens of Kamloops.

Consequently, we urge you and the authority vested in provincial and city officials to oppose (do not approve) this development.

yours sincerely,

s.22

CC Kevin Kruegar, MLA Kamloops
Terry Lake MLA Kamloops-North
Peter Milobar, Mayor City of Kamloops BC

144577

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2011 6:45 PM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Ajax Mine Proposal Comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

From: s.22
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 2:58 PM
To: Lake.MLA, Terry LASS:EX; Kevin.kreuger.mla@leg.bc.ca; Christie.clark.premier@leg.bc.ca
Subject: Ajax Mine Proposal Comments

Attached are my personal comments about the proposed Ajax mine, almost half of which would be within the boundaries of the City of Kamloops. I have also been involved in drafting a letter from s.22 about this proposed development that will impact so many residents of our community. I would be happy to discuss my comments with you.

s.22

s.22

144579

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2011 6:45 PM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Ajax Mine
Attachments: To Whom it may Concern July, 2011.doc

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

From: s.22 [s.net](#)
Sent: Saturday, July 9, 2011 9:12 AM
To: Lake.MLA, Terry LASS:EX
Subject: Ajax Mine

s.22

To whom it may concern:

s.22

S22

are adamantly opposed to the building and production of Ajax Mine in Kamloops.

It appalls me to think that money and big business may come before the impact this will have on our community.

There is much talk even by our local MLA that this will bring economic wealth to Kamloops in the form of 400 jobs.

What about the jobs that will go elsewhere at our expense?

I would venture to say that none of those people will be living in the Aberdeen, Knutsford, Pine Valley and areas surrounding the proposed mine.

Those in our outlying areas who have chosen to live there for peace and tranquility will have lost what they so treasure.

I believe that the cost to the people of Kamloops will be far greater than the advantages and our quality of life will suffer.

Some of the negative impacts to our area and environment are as follows:

The removal of precious water from the North and South Thompson Rivers to operate this mine.

The displacement of Peterson Creek and disruption of our grasslands.

Constant and very bright lights as the mine will operate 24/7.

Noise and vibration from the constant moving of heavy gigantic machinery.

Vibration and dust from blasting.

Constant dust from the moving of heavy equipment and ore.

The added noise of traffic on the old Merritt highway as more vehicles go up and down it.

s.22

more noise due to the removal of pine beetle kill trees and the expansion of Aberdeen.)

How can Jacko Lake and the fish stocks not be affected permanently when the pit will be within feet of it?

s.22

These are only a few of the concerns and it sickens me to think of what our beautiful neighbourhood could become. I hope that those opposed even if not affected by this event will speak out.

s.22

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2011 2:35 PM
To: s.22
Subject: Proposed Ajax Project - Environmental Assessment

Ref: 100673

Dea S22

Thank you for your email of July 9, 2011, regarding the proposed Ajax Project (proposed Project) near Kamloops, BC.

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), for which I am Minister responsible, is charged with managing the assessment of proposed major projects in our province in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). EAO is guided by the principle of fairness and undertakes objective environmental assessments, giving full and fair consideration to all interests.

Environmental assessments undertaken by EAO examine the potential environmental, economic, social, heritage and health effects from the construction, operation and, where required, decommissioning stage of a proposed project. The EAO works with key stakeholders, and provides opportunities for public involvement in the environmental assessment process. For any project requiring an environmental assessment certificate under the Act, two Ministers (including the Minister of Environment) must agree to the issuance of a certificate before other provincial agencies can issue permits and authorizations for the project.

As you may be aware, the proposed Project is currently undergoing an environmental assessment by the EAO under the Act. In light of that fact, I have forwarded your correspondence to the EAO.

For more information on the proposed Project and the environmental assessment process, including opportunities for public involvement, I would encourage you to visit the EAO's website at:
<http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/>.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Lake
Minister of Environment

144680

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2011 6:44 PM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Submission on Ajax Mine proposal
Attachments: Ajax submission, July 10, 2011.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22
Sent: Sunday, July 10, 2011 5:26 PM
To: Cathy McLeod MP; Lake.MLA, Terry LASS:EX; Krueger.MLA, Kevin LASS:EX
Subject: Submission on Ajax Mine proposal

Hi:

Attached is a pdf of my submission to the provincial and federal environmental assessment agencies on the proposed Ajax mine.

I trust you will give this submission your serious consideration.

yours truly,

s.22

Environmental and economic assessment of the proposed Ajax mine (in and adjacent to the City of Kamloops).

Introduction.

I am also familiar with the Pine Point, NWT, lead/zinc open pit mine which began operations in 1963, and closed in 1988, a life span of 25 years. In the case of Pine Point an entire prefabricated town was built, and removed when the mine closed. The main differences between the Ajax project and Pine Point Mine are that the town of Pine Point was built several kilometres away from the mine, and the land was flat. Noise, vibration, contaminated water and dust were not problems. Also, the people who went to live in the town of Pine Point were mining people. They knew what to expect with regard to the mining operation. They were there **because** the mine was there, and left when it closed. The Ajax mine, by contrast, would intrude into the city limits, and sit on high ground above the City of Kamloops, which is largely populated by people with no experience of, or prior exposure to open pit mining. The mine site is also above rural ranch land, ranchers' homes, and other properties to the south.

The review process.

All that needs to be said about the review process to date is that opportunity for public input has been minimal. There has been a single, two hour public meeting, almost 40 minutes of which was taken up with statements by government officials. The

proponent, on the other hand, has had discussions with government agencies, First Nations, and the business community for at least two years. No time constraints there, apparently. As the editor of the Kamloops Daily News asked recently, 'Why is the public the last to know?'

Environmental issues.

I note that most if not all of the environmental and health issues have been addressed in submissions made to the BC Environmental Assessment Office.

This huge project will effectively destroy a large area of pristine land which is currently an environmental treasure. It will destroy Jacko Lake as a favourite fishing place, sooner rather than later, and make Inks Lake no longer a summer and winter playground for the people of Kamloops. Peterson Creek will be diverted, and doing so will inevitably change its nature and the lives of the creatures that depend on it. Additionally, there are many water-dependent homes along Peterson Creek, and a creek diversion could result in dry wells, and the redistribution of polluted water underground and subsequently into the South Thompson River. As several submissions sent to BC EAO and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency have pointed out, there will be a significant and completely negative impact on the wildlife that live in and migrate through the area. The legacy of the mine will be not only an enormous crater in the earth, but will create a nightmare landscape of huge piles of waste rock and a tailings pond which cannot possibly be restored to anything remotely resembling a natural environment.

The company's explanation regarding the environmental safety of the vast tailings pond was totally unsatisfactory. There was no explanation of why leakage would not occur, or why a liner would not be used. There was no explanation of exactly what the tailings would contain, other than to say it would be just dry, crushed rock. Removing the copper and gold-containing ore from the rock will necessitate the use of chemicals and large amounts of water. Some residue of this process will undoubtedly adhere to the rock sent to the tailings pond. Once dry, the tailings will add to the dust burden blown over Kamloops until, and if, the tailings pond is covered with clay. The mining industry in general has a very poor history of satisfactorily and safely dealing with tailings. This tailings pond will be located above Kamloops and Kamloops Lake. Any leakage could be disastrous. Highland Valley Copper recently built a roof over their tailings pond because of too much material being blown off as dust.

Water is a critical element in controlling dust. Huge amounts of water will have to be taken from Kamloops Lake, and once used that water will ultimately flow downhill. On the one hand Ajax (KGHM Ajax Mining Inc.) proposes to use water to deal with all the dust problems, and to use in the milling process, but on the other has made no reference to the impact on Kamloops Lake, or where all of that water will go after use. I have heard of no studies done by the government or Ajax into the possible existence of rock fractures. There has certainly been no evidence produced by the proponent or

government that the blasting will not cause rock fractures, with the consequent seepage of potentially contaminated water to the Aberdeen and Sahali districts and below. This could completely disrupt the underground water system on the south side of Kamloops.

Health issues.

The location and size of the proposed project poses a serious threat to the health of both the residents of Kamloops, and those living outside the city, close to the mine site. The response of Ajax to concerns raised at the June 16 public meeting regarding blasting, noise, dust, vibration and environment impacts was completely unconvincing. Ajax stated that the testing and other environmental reviews they had undertaken showed that there would be no negative impacts to either city residents or those living in the rural surrounds. These responses were unsupported by facts relating to open pit mines, and the Ajax mine in particular.

The Ajax project is located directly above Kamloops, partly within city limits, and to state that there will be no impact on the city is ludicrous. The prevailing wind will blow the dust an open pit mining operation creates directly over the city, and thermal inversion, common to Kamloops, will keep the dust there.

The noise of the operation, created by drilling, blasting and the associated vibration, plus the operation of heavy equipment operation necessary for an operation of this huge scale will also be heard and felt by city and rural residents. The company has produced no credible evidence to the contrary.

By comparison, the blasting noise from Highland Copper can be heard as far away as Logan Lake, some 16 kilometres away, when there is overcast cloud cover. The blasting technique proposed by Ajax as reducing noise and vibration is not new; it has been used for decades. The noise created is still the sound of a large number (100 +) of very large drill holes being exploded within a few seconds. The vibrations created will be felt by those living in Aberdeen, Sahali and the rural homes close to the mine. The combination of noise and vibration can adversely affect people's health.

A review of the initial Working Group report of April 27, 2011, indicates that the sole Health Canada representative raised only two issues. One was to ask if studies to assess noise impact studies were being considered. The other was to comment that country foods should be included as a valued component in the assessment.

Where was the Health Canada statement that there MUST be studies of ALL potential health impacts of this mine.

It is unbelievable that Health Canada would not be more concerned with the possibility of the Ajax mine jeopardizing the health and mental welfare of the people of Kamloops and those living outside the city, but close to the proposed mine site.

Economic issues.

If the Ajax project is approved the value of real estate in the Aberdeen and Sahali areas will, without question, plummet. Who will want to live in the area? What happens if the promise that residents will not be affected by the mining operation proves wrong. Who will pay for repairs to homes affected by the blasting? Cracked basements are a very real possibility. Once this project is approved, any homeowner who is negatively affected will have to fight both Ajax and the government for compensation, both of which have deeper pockets than the average homeowner. The promises of "no impact" are worthless should the project go ahead and negative impacts arise. What possible compensation can be provided to people whose entire lifestyle has been adversely changed, a change they were powerless to stop?

If the mine is approved the provincial government will provide about \$200 million of taxpayers money to Ajax for the project under the Mining Exploration Tax Credit Program which reimburses companies 30% of their expenditures. This figure is based on a conceptual 60,000 tonne-per-day project, and associated metallurgical recovery equations. The project is worth about \$7.4 billion over its life span, at a cost of \$600 million. In return, the taxpayers will receive about \$10 million per year after taxes for the approximately 400 jobs Ajax says will be created. This means that the taxpayer breaks even, while the company walks away with over \$7 billion, and leaves behind a moonscape, not a landscape. So, what is Ajax willing to set aside for the taxpayers who are negatively impacted by the mine, and for a city dealing with the aftermath? The tourism industry is bound to be negatively affected. Who would want to visit a city with such a huge, ugly, dusty, noisy open pit mine on its doorstep?

There should be bonding requirements of the company which cover not only cleanup and reclamation when the mine closes, but also to cover costs of any damage to homes, community infrastructure, health issues, etc. \$1 billion seems to me to be an entirely reasonable figure. Further, the promise of 400 jobs should not be taken as any guarantee that they would be local hires. Mining is a dangerous, specialized business, and all of the best paying jobs i.e drilling, blasting, heavy equipment operation etc., etc. would be filled by experienced miners.

Summary.

Based on the little information the general public has been given, it appears that all of the environmental and technical studies to date have been conducted by or for Ajax. It is unacceptable that the government agencies involved in the review process appear to be placing complete reliance by on data compiled by the proponent. If this data is accepted at face value it is the equivalent of taking at face value the reports published by pharmaceutical companies that their products are safe. Remember Thalidomide?

The Ajax response to concerns expressed by the attendees at the June 16, 2011 public meeting failed to convince many of those present. However, it appears that the government's position is that if anyone has concerns regarding any aspect of this proposed mine, we must provide facts to support our position. In fact, exactly the opposite position should be taken. Both Ajax and the government(s) should provide fully documented proof that the mine will not adversely affect the economic well-being or health of the residents of Kamloops, or that of those families who live on the southern perimeter of the Ajax property. It is already clear that the proposed Ajax mine will cause major, irreversible negative impacts on the environment.

If this project is approved, all that is offered are the economic spinoffs of 400 jobs, in exchange for \$200 million of Canadian taxpayers money. The devastating environmental effects, the threat to the health and economic well-being of so many Kamloops residents, and those living outside the city adjacent to the proposed mine, will have been cast aside. The loss of ranch land, and ranching lifestyles of local families will have been considered of no consequence. One feels particularly sorry for these families, some of whom have lived in the area for generations. All of this will be the final gift by Ajax to us, our children and grandchildren. And all of this purely for profit, most of which will not even stay in Canada.

The federal and provincial governments must prevent the Ajax open pit mine proposal from going forward. However, If the review process continues the federal government should immediately commit to having independent studies conducted of the environmental, health and economic aspects of the proposed mine.

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Lake.MLA, Terry [Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca]
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2011 3:30 PM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Ajax Mine Project Submission
Attachments: Ajax submission, July 10, 2011.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Min-Sig

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22
Sent: July-16-11 6:16 PM
To: Lake.MLA, Terry
Subject: Ajax Mine Project Submission

To:
The Hon Terry Lake, MLA

From:
S22

Re: Ajax Mine Project proposal.

I recently sent to you my submission to the BCEAO on the Ajax Mine Project. I have now realized that I sent a draft version, for which I apologize. Attached is the version you should have received.

Yours truly,

s.22

Environmental and economic assessment of the proposed Ajax mine in and adjacent to the City of Kamloops.

Introduction.

s.22

I am also familiar with the Pine Point, NWT, lead/zinc open pit mine which began operations in 1963, and closed in 1988, a life span of 25 years. In the case of Pine Point an entire prefabricated town was built, and removed when the mine closed. The main differences between the Ajax project and Pine Point Mine are that the town of Pine Point was built several kilometres away from the mine, and the land was flat. Noise, vibration, contaminated water and dust were not problems. Also, the people who went to live in the town of Pine Point were mining people. They knew what to expect with regard to the mining operation. They were there because the mine was there, and left when it closed. The Ajax mine, by contrast, would intrude into the city limits, and sit on high ground above the City of Kamloops, which is largely populated by people with no experience of, or prior exposure to open pit mining. The mine site is also above rural ranch land, ranchers' homes, and other properties to the south.

The review process.

All that needs to be said about the review process to date is that opportunity for public input has been minimal. There has been a single, two hour public meeting, almost 40 minutes of which was taken up with statements by government officials. The

proponent, on the other hand, has had discussions with government agencies, First Nations, and the business community for at least two years. No time constraints there, apparently. As the editor of the Kamloops Daily News asked recently, "Why is the public the last to know?"

Environmental issues.

I note that most if not all of the environmental and health issues have been addressed in submissions made to the BC Environmental Assessment Office.

This huge project will effectively destroy a large area of pristine land which is currently an environmental treasure. It will destroy Jacko Lake as a favourite fishing place, sooner rather than later, and make Inks Lake no longer a summer and winter playground for the people of Kamloops. Peterson Creek will be diverted, and doing so will inevitably change its nature and the lives of the creatures that depend on it. Additionally, there are many water-dependent homes along Peterson Creek, and a creek diversion could result in dry wells, and the redistribution of polluted water underground and subsequently into the South Thompson River. As several submissions sent to BC EAO and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency have pointed out, there will be a significant and completely negative impact on the wildlife that live in and migrate through the area. The legacy of the mine will be not only an enormous crater in the earth, but will create a nightmare landscape of huge piles of waste rock and a tailings pond which cannot possibly be restored to anything remotely resembling a natural environment.

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Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2011 10:31 AM
To: s.22
Cc: cathy.mcleod.c1@parl.gc.ca; Krueger.MLA, Kevin LASS:EX; Vinette, Nicole EAO:EX
Subject: Proposed Ajax Project - Environmental Assessment

Ref: 100674

Dea S22

Thank you for your email of July 10, 2011, regarding the proposed Ajax Project (proposed Project) near Kamloops, BC.

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), for which I am Minister responsible, is charged with managing the assessment of proposed major projects in our province in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). EAO is guided by the principle of fairness and undertakes objective environmental assessments, giving full and fair consideration to all interests.

Environmental assessments undertaken by EAO examine the potential environmental, economic, social, heritage and health effects from the construction, operation and, where required, decommissioning stage of a proposed project. The EAO works with key stakeholders, and provides opportunities for public involvement in the environmental assessment process. For any project requiring an environmental assessment certificate under the Act, two Ministers (including the Minister of Environment) must agree to the issuance of a certificate before other provincial agencies can issue permits and authorizations for the project.

As you may be aware, the proposed Project is currently undergoing an environmental assessment by the EAO under the Act. In light of that fact, I have forwarded your correspondence to the EAO.

For more information on the proposed Project and the environmental assessment process, including opportunities for public involvement, I would encourage you to visit the EAO's website at:
<http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/>.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Lake
Minister of Environment

144644

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2011 4:55 PM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: GCC Comments on Environmental Assessment of Ajax Mine,11-03-62225
Attachments: AjaxMineProposal11July_FINAL.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

From: **On Behalf Of** amber cowie

Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 4:32 PM

To: Ajax@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Cc: mayor@kamloops.ca;

Thomson.MLA, Steve LASS:EX; Lake.MLA, Terry LASS:EX

Subject: GCC Comments on Environmental Assessment of Ajax Mine,11-03-62225

Hello:

Reference No. 11-03-62225

I am writing to formally submit the comments of the Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia on the environmental assessment process for the proposed Ajax Mine. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at by telephone or email.

Thank you,
Amber Cowie
Manager, Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia

s.22
amber.cowie@bcgrasslands.org
www.bcgrasslands.org



**Grasslands Conservation Council
of British Columbia**

Nicole Vinette, Project Assessment Manager
Environmental Assessment Office
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9V1

Lyle Thompson, Project Manager
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
320 - 757 West Hastings Street
Vancouver BC V6C 1A1

By email: Ajax@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

11 July 2011

Dear Ms.Vinette;

Re: Comments regarding the proposed Ajax Mine
Reference No. 11-03-62225

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the preliminary stages of the federal environmental assessment process for the proposed Ajax Mine, southwest of Kamloops, British Columbia. The proposed project and the process by which the proponent is proceeding with its public consultation have raised several concerns within the leadership and membership of our organization, the Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia (GCC). This letter will begin with an overall summary of the GCC's position on the proposed Ajax mine and follow with detailed concerns about the project.

The GCC, formed in 1996, is a registered charity with over 300 members and supporters dedicated to the stewardship and conservation of the rare grasslands of British Columbia. Our purpose is to foster greater understanding and appreciation for the ecological, social, economic and cultural importance of the grasslands throughout the province; promote stewardship and sustainable management practices to ensure the long-term health of the grasslands; and support the conservation of representative grassland ecosystems, species at risk and their habitats.

Overall, the GCC is deeply concerned with the proposed destruction of this large grassland area, given the scarcity and high ecological value of the ecosystem type in the community, region, province and world. Native grasslands have been shown to be exceedingly difficult to restore and/or recreate; their value in a native



Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia

state is incredibly high. It is the position of our organization that the provincial and federal government should consistently strive to conserve and enhance the grasslands in the province of British Columbia and throughout Canada. This proposal's potential for significant damage and destruction to grasslands is, therefore, of grave concern. If the proposal goes forward as planned, the GCC believes that the proponent should be held financially accountable for the damages resulting from this project to the grassland ecosystems in the proposed plan area. The proponent must create and finance a sound plan for rehabilitation of the damage and destruction to the grasslands in the plan area itself and set aside a mutually agreed upon fund to undertake this rehabilitation in partnership with local experts and organizations. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, It must also establish a large fund that will be used to undertake further mitigation measures to purchase and/or improve similar grasslands in the region to ensure that no net loss of grasslands occur as a result of this mine's development.

There are two primary issues that will be raised within the following detailed analysis of the proposal: the ecological and economic damage that will likely be caused by the proposal and the lack of transparent public engagement to date from the proponent in their dealings with the community of Kamloops and beyond. Each issue will be dealt with in turn in the text below.

First, the GCC is extremely concerned about the widespread, long-term and potentially irreversible ecological and socio-economic impacts this proposal will have on the area in which it is proposed to occur. The proposed development directly impacts roughly 2500 hectares (about 10 square miles) of native grasslands directly southwest of two thriving Kamloops neighbourhoods, Aberdeen and Pineview Valley. Grasslands are an integral part of the natural system of BC; though they make up less than one percent of the province, they provide habitat for approximately one third of the province's species at risk, two of which are known to occur in the proposed development area: the sharp-tailed grouse and the American badger. These iconic grassland species are both especially vulnerable to impacts from roads and obstacles that fragment their habitat by damaging or destroying the wildlife corridors used for hunting, mating and other necessary functions. The proposal to surround the anticipated tailings pond with an 180-metre high wall, for example, will significantly undermine the connectivity of the landscape, likely rendering it unusable by the species that currently roam through the existing range to breed, forage and seek shelter.

In addition to the anticipated impacts to the badger, grouse and other grassland species in the area, several at risk plant communities will be severely threatened by the completion of the proponent's proposed action. In *Taking Nature's Pulse: The Status of Biodiversity in BC*, a comprehensive, science-based assessment of BC's natural environment put out by Biodiversity BC in 2008, the Bunchgrass



Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia

zone in this area was classified as Imperiled, and the adjacent Interior Douglas Fir zone was ranked as vulnerable. Given the significant disruption and destruction of these grasslands during the course of extraction, transportation and general operations, it seems clear to the GCC that these vulnerable plant communities are unlikely to survive.

Further to the provincial and federal ecological rankings noted above that have placed a high value on the animals and plants within the proposed area of development, the impact of this proposal on community-led planning in the City of Kamloops will also be significant. In 2007-2008, the City of Kamloops commissioned the GCC to create the *Aberdeen Ecological Area Assessment*¹, which consists of a field assessment and priority ecosystem analysis to outline areas where development could occur in a manner that would still protect the high ecological values and habitat for species at risk. This assessment provided the basis for the subsequent *Aberdeen Area Plan*², a land use system adopted by the City of Kamloops to guide future land development in the Aberdeen neighbourhood. The plan did not include any open pit mines or associated mining activity in the general vicinity of the new community development. The GCC is concerned that the development of a nearby mine could render the areas the City has set aside for sustainable community building unattractive due to altered sight lines, increased noise and traffic volume and overall aesthetic concerns. As a result, city planners may decide to alter their current plan and move the development to a more attractive location for new residents, such as the more sensitive and rare grasslands to the north of Kamloops. The creation of the Ajax mine would therefore result in the loss of two significant grasslands areas: the mine area itself and the newly selected location for housing development. As well, the GCC is troubled by the potential for the celebrated results of its partnership with city planners to be undermined by provincial and federal decision-making processes that may not be able to use the goal of healthy, sustainable communities as the primary basis for the decision.

In addition, the economic and societal blow to an integral industry operating in the area should not be undervalued. The grasslands within the proposed development area act as the foundation of operations for several ranches in the region, providing forage and grazing opportunities for cattle and other livestock; the area of proposed development is currently in grazing use by several large ranches. These operations, and those of nearby ranches that rely on an interconnected network of healthy thriving grasslands to succeed both economically and socially, will be severely impacted by this massive development in areas currently used for cattle grazing. The culture of the

¹ www.bcgrasslands.org/docs/aberdeen_ecological_assessment.pdf

² www.kamloops.ca/communityplanning/pdfs/plans/08-AberdeenAreaPlan.pdf



Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia

ranching community in this region and beyond will also be affected by the size and impact of the proposed project. The removal of large swathes of grasslands used for grazing will fundamentally alter the ranching landscape in the area, eradicating any future options for cattle to be moved around the area, and undermining a community and industry already facing severe economic hardships.

Further, the impact on a highly used and extremely popular recreation area, the Goose Lake road, has not been taken into consideration in the proposal. These areas provide residents of Kamloops with the opportunity to explore and engage in the grasslands in a sustainable manner through walking, cycling and dog walking. The loss of this recreational area will be a blow to both the local community and the GCC's goal of raising awareness of the value and beauty of grasslands in the general public.

The grasslands of British Columbia are a cornerstone of our province's ecological, economic and cultural health. It is critical, therefore, that a development of this size be evaluated based on scientific principles and social values to ensure that the full impact of the loss and damage to these grasslands is properly measured and appropriately compensated for by the proponent. It is critical that if this proposal does move forward that there be no net loss of grasslands in the province. Each square mile damaged or destroyed by the Ajax mine should be rehabilitated as much as possible as well as mitigated through the conservation of grasslands of the same type in another area.

Second, the GCC has been troubled by the manner in which the proponent has attempted to engage with concerned citizens in the initial stages of public consultation. At a recent public consultation hosted by the proponent, held in Kamloops on June 16, the GCC was disappointed by the lack of information regarding the ecological and economic impact of the proposed mine. Despite the proponent's repeated assurances that the company has been studying the natural values of the area since 2007, little documentation was on hand to assure the public of the validity, depth or accuracy of the company's findings. The results of the four year study had been reduced to a series of small posters showcasing little more than general information, with no supporting reports or background documents to provide context for the brief text provided. Further to this, the public has been inadequately provided with mapping and/or modeling of the proposed mine. The proponent's website contains a limited ortho-photo that details a vague site plan from which specific attributes, scale and function are difficult to glean. A three dimensional model or map should be developed so the full scope and layout of the proposed activities can be easily and readily understood by the general public. The lack of background information is especially troubling to our members and supporters, given the fact that the proponent has already



Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia

conducted a series of public engagement meetings with various stakeholders and has been able to gain an understanding of the varied and numerous concerns being voiced by members of the community. The failure to address and respond to these concerns does not bode well for the potential for meaningful community engagement if this project does go forward.

In closing, the GCC has expressed its concerns about the significant negative impact on the ecology, economy and community decision-making in the current proposal to construct the Ajax mine in the grasslands of Kamloops. There are, however, numerous other extremely valid concerns about the project that have been noted by our partners and supporters that should be briefly mentioned. The GCC is also concerned about the entirety of the project's implications, including damage and destruction of wildlife values along Peterson Creek, and the long term health of the Jacko Lake and its associated hydrological system which plays a vital role in the operations of nearby agricultural and ranching businesses. Damage to Jacko Lake is also a concern with anglers, given its role as a key early season fishery in Kamloops. The potential damage to the water system that may be incurred by the creation and extraction of a 500 metre deep open pit right beside it cannot be overstated. Finally, a number of rural and city residents that live in proximity to the proposed area of development have also expressed concern about the toll the increased noise, fumes, dust and traffic will likely have on their quality of life and overall health.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the process associated with the Ajax Mine proposal in a critically significant grassland area in BC's interior. If you have any questions about these comments, please feel free to contact me by telephone at s.22 or by email at amber.cowie@bcgrasslands.org.

Sincerely,

Amber Cowie
Manager, Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia

cc: David Zirnhelt, Chair, Grasslands Conservation Council of BC
Mayor Peter Milobar, City of Kamloops
Peter Milobar, Chair, Thompson-Nicola Region District
Hon. Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources
Hon. Dr. Terry Lake, Minister of the Environment
Jean Crowe, Director, Kamloops Naturalists Club
Tom Dickinson, Kamloops Naturalists Club



**Grasslands Conservation Council
of British Columbia**

Don Trethewey, Kamloops Fish and Game Association

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2011 10:31 AM
To: s.22
Cc: mayor@kamloops.ca; Thomson.MLA, Steve LASS:EX; Vinette, Nicole EAO:EX
Subject: Proposed Ajax Project - Environmental Assessment

Ref: 100677

Dear Ms. Cowie:

Thank you for your email of July 11, 2011, regarding the proposed Ajax Project (proposed Project) near Kamloops, BC.

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), for which I am Minister responsible, is charged with managing the assessment of proposed major projects in our province in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). EAO is guided by the principle of fairness and undertakes objective environmental assessments, giving full and fair consideration to all interests.

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As you may be aware, the proposed Project is currently undergoing an environmental assessment by the EAO under the Act. In light of that fact, I have forwarded your correspondence to the EAO.

For more information on the proposed Project and the environmental assessment process, including opportunities for public involvement, I would encourage you to visit the EAO's website at:
<http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/>.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Lake
Minister of Environment

144645

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2011 1:45 PM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Ajax Mine

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

From:
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2011 3:28 PM
To: Lake.MLA, Terry LASS:EX
Subject: Ajax Mine

Dear Dr. Lake,

I am writing to comment on the proposed Ajax mine near Aberdeen in Kamloops. Some recent articles in the press seem to indicate you have positioned yourself in favor of the mine. I am writing to you as the Minister of Environment to question how an industrial installation of this magnitude could be considered so near to Kamloops.

First let me say that in general I am in favor of mining. I appreciate the jobs and the taxes and I am aware that most of the products that I use come at least partially from the earth with some environmental cost. In fact, this mine would very likely be of direct economic benefit to me. However, I also believe it is possible to locate a mine too close to a population center of 85,000 people. Environmental impacts that may be tolerable 50km away from a city are not necessarily tolerable when located 2km from a city.

s.22

I understand the Ajax group will be providing details on plans for mitigation of environmental impacts resulting from the mine, rock crushers, waste rock piles, tailing ponds, water supply, blasting, trucking, etc. Clearly Ajax will be attempting to minimize the apparent impact as part of this process. I would hope to see the specific plans for mitigation publically posted for review by all.

Several of my concerns are as follows:

Dust:

The mine will be a massive generator of metallic ore dust from the blasting and crushing operations. Also, the many hundreds of daily trips by the ore trucks will generate immense dust plumes if roads are dry. The wind blows vigorously toward the east and north east almost every day through the valley between Jocko Lake and Coal Hill. This constant wind will carry all metallic ore dust, blasting fumes, and exhaust from vehicles toward

South Kamloops, Valleyview, Dallas, etc. and will deposit at least the dust in those areas. I believe much of this wind may also often circle around to blow back into town across Sun Rivers.

Each person who is interested in the impact from this mine should take a drive out to Highland Valley mining operations to see the dust there. Drive up to the office parking lot where you can see the daily accumulation of metallic dust. Rub some of it on your fingers to see that it is not just normal 'dirt' dust – it doesn't come off. Stop on the side of the road 1km, 2km, 4km, and 8km from the main processing area and look at the impact of the dust in forest. I think everyone should see the widespread impact of all this dust.

Kamloops already has a severely compromised air-shed due to the pulp mill. Do we really need another major source of air pollution?

Waste Water:

I assume that much of the mitigation for the dust created by the mine will revolve around water spraying on roads and ore removal operations. Also, the stunning amount of water used in the various ore processing operations will all be released back into the environment. Unfortunately, the area of the mine has very limited water outflow options. All of the water that is pumped up the hill from Kamloops Lake will of course eventually return to the river.

The many square kilometers of destruction that will be formed by the tailings ponds will be with us for many more years than the 23 year proposed lifespan of the mine. Again, a quick trip out to the Highland Valley will show the stunning impact. Or perhaps a drive by Craigmont mines - 30 years after the close of the mine the tailings ponds are still an ugly scar.

All of this water must flow downhill into one of Cherry, Alkali, Guerin, or Peterson creeks. Much of the runoff will flow into the urban Peterson Creek where it will flow right through the center of town. How does Ajax propose to preclude the total death of these stream systems? How much of the daily millions of gallons will join the already troublesome groundwater flow down through Aberdeen? How can this properly be assessed?

It seems that Ajax will be permitted to alter the course of Peterson Creek for several hundred meters. I find this interesting in light of recent rulings by DFO where not so much as one meter of alteration can be permitted in Peterson Creek where it flows through downtown Kamloops.

The waste rock piles will be hundreds of feet high and many kilometers long. Many people think they will be only an unsightly byproduct of the mine. However, from February until July each year vast amounts of melt water will run off and through the waste piles collecting metals and poisons. The resulting toxic stream will flow down via the Alkali and perhaps Cherry Creek systems to the river. The photo below (sorry about the poor quality) shows the brilliant orange run-off from the waste piles at Gibraltar mine. This water then flows untreated into the surrounding watershed. I have seen this sort of runoff at several BC mining operations. What is to stop the same runoff here in Kamloops?

**Tourism:**

Unfortunately, Kamloops is already known as a smelly mill town. It seems that discharge from the Domtar mill is acceptable to MOE but it is not acceptable to many residents and certainly not to tourists. The visual impact of the mine from the Coquihalla will be striking but not a tourist draw. The impact on the air-shed will only strengthen the perception that Kamloops is a smelly, polluted place. Does Kamloops really want to be perceived as another Trail or Sudbury?

Seismic:

I really don't know anything about this but I question the impact of thousands of explosions over many years located a scant 3.5 km from many houses. Who will be attesting to the safety of this – Ajax?

I would like to see the environmental assessment process more open so that the citizens of Kamloops can feel like a proper evaluation will be made. There is no question that people in Victoria or Poland will not have to live with the impact of this mine; it will be borne by you and I and our children. I cannot see how this mine could be permitted.

Best regards,

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2011 10:31 AM
To: s.22
Cc: Vinette, Nicole EAO:EX
Subject: Proposed Ajax Project - Environmental Assessment

Ref: 100678

De: S22

Thank you for your email of July 5, 2011, regarding the proposed Ajax Project (proposed Project) near Kamloops, BC.

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), for which I am Minister responsible, is charged with managing the assessment of proposed major projects in our province in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). EAO is guided by the principle of fairness and undertakes objective environmental assessments, giving full and fair consideration to all interests.

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For more information on the proposed Project and the environmental assessment process, including opportunities for public involvement, I would encourage you to visit the EAO's website at:
<http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/>.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Lake
Minister of Environment

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

144646

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2011 1:45 PM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Ajax Mine - Environmental Review Submission - July 2011
Attachments: Ajax Mine - Environmental Review Submission - July 2011.doc

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

From s.22
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2011 4:27 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Cc: Lake.MLA, Terry LASS:EX; Vinette, Nicole EAO:EX
Subject: Ajax Mine - Environmental Review Submission - July 2011

We are attaching our submission to the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office, which, we presume, is under the direction of the

Minister of the Environment, Terry Lake.

s.22

when you came to Kamloops after announcing your candidacy. I was so very impressed with your "Families First" platform. However, it appears your Minister of the Environment is not aware of that platform, when he publicly supported the proposed mine on a radio talk show. This was immediately after the proposal was announced to the public at a meeting — and the Environmental Assessment process had barely started. We, and many like-minded citizens would like to have an explanation as to where he actually does stand. Does he support saving our delicate and unique grass- and wetlands, or does he support an open pit mine, less than 2km from new neighbourhoods in Kamloops. The two cannot exist together. The families in Aberdeen/Pineview Valley/Knutsford do not want the pollution an open pit mine will bring. Please give your close scrutiny to the Environmental Assessment currently being done. Thank you for your attention.

S22

To: Nicole Vinette, Project Assessment Manager
Government of B. C., Department of the Environment
P.O. Box No. 9426 Stn. Prov. Govt.,
Victoria, B. C. V8W 9V1

Lyle Thompson, Project Manager,
Government of Canada
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency,
#410 – 701 West Georgia Street,
Vancouver, B. C. V7Y 1K8

Copies: The Honourable Cathy McLeod, Member of Parliament
The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier
MLA Kevin Krueger
MLA Dr. Terry Lake, Minister of the Environment
His Worship, Mayor Peter Milobar,
Mayor of the City of Kamloops
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Interior Health Authority, Okanagan and Thompson Region

From:

s.22

Re: Federal and Provincial Environmental Assessments of proposed Ajax Mine Project

Date: July 5, 2011

We are registering our vehement opposition to the implementation of the proposed Ajax Mine Project.

As stated at the public meeting on June 23, 2011 by the Ajax Project Manager, Jim Whittaker, KGHM Polska Miedz SA is a mining company – this is what they do, and will go ahead with the project even in the face of opposition from the residents of the affected city. In their initial feasibility study some years ago, no doubt the proximity of goods and services, and an existing highway, made this a very desirable project from the company's point of view. The usual cost of this infrastructure had already been paid by the citizens of B. C. The suggested benefit to the city, a 7 million annual payroll, would barely cover the cost of advertising promoting the HST, already spent by the Provincial government. This illustrates the "drop in a bucket" that 7 million would represent.

However, the costs to the community would include:

1. Health care, with the increase in respiratory and allergy issues as a result of the increased dust and toxins in the air, water and ground.
2. Highway maintenance – daily heavy trucks along Lac Le Jeune and the Coquihalla

3. Decimated property values in the neighbouring ranches, Aberdeen, Pineview Valley and Knutsford
4. Landslides will most likely occur where homes are built on the steep slopes of hills impacted by the daily blasting vibrations, which would exacerbate the instability of some ground due to water issues – resulting in higher insurance costs
5. Much heightened possibility of forest fires in the urban forest surrounding Aberdeen Pineview and Knutsford, with the projected 1,000 workers during the proposed construction phase.

The environmental cost would be absolutely irreplaceable, as has been well addressed by the many persons who have already registered their objections, which we strongly support.

We are requesting replies on five issues:

1. From the Environmental Assessment Office: An aerial display/map/photo of the proposed mine site, including the ranches, neighbourhoods and highways for a five km corridor around the area, to be made available to all concerned parties and displayed at further public meetings.
2. From the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure: The projected cost of further maintenance of the highways impacted by increased heavy trucking.
3. From the Interior Health Authority: a report covering what issues would need to be examined to determine the health effects resulting from increased airborne dust, toxins and water and ground contamination.
4. From Kamloops-North Thompson MLA, Dr. Terry Lake, and Minister of the Environment: An explanation as to his public support of this project, when the Environmental Assessment process governed by his ministry, had barely commenced.
5. From the Provincial Fire Safety Authority: What kind of plan is in place to allow the Province to charge KGHM/Abacus/Ajax with the costs of fire fighting and the loss of homes and infrastructure in the event of a fire originating from the proposed mine site?

In your position as Project Assessment Manager, would you kindly address these questions with the officials of the agencies mentioned above, or whichever authority is appropriate. Thank you for your attention.

Yours truly,

S22

Distribution List on following page

Submission to the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Re: The Proposed Ajax Mine at Kamloops, B. C.

Distribution List:

By E-Mail to: Nicole.Vinette@gov.bc.ca
Lyle.thompson@ceaa-acee.gc.ca
Cathy.mcleod.c1@parl.gc.ca
Terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca
Kevin.krueger.mla@leg.bc.ca
Christie.clark.premier@gov.bc.ca
mayor@kamloops.ca

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2011 10:32 AM
To: s.22
Cc: Premier's Office PREM:EX; Vinette, Nicole EAO:EX
Subject: Proposed Ajax Project - Environmental Assessment

Ref: 100679

Dear S22

Thank you for your email of July 5, 2011, regarding the proposed Ajax Project (proposed Project) near Kamloops, BC.

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), for which I am Minister responsible, is charged with managing the assessment of proposed major projects in our province in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). EAO is guided by the principle of fairness and undertakes objective environmental assessments, giving full and fair consideration to all interests.

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As you may be aware, the proposed Project is currently undergoing an environmental assessment by the EAO under the Act. In light of that fact, I have forwarded your correspondence to the EAO.

For more information on the proposed Project and the environmental assessment process, including opportunities for public involvement, I would encourage you to visit the EAO's website at:
<http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/>.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Lake
Minister of Environment

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011 12:56 PM
To: s.22
Cc: MINISTER, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: RE: Ajax Mine - Environmental Review Submission - July 2011

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Min-Sig

Thank you for your email containing your submission to the BC Environmental Assessment Office related to the proposed Ajax Mine at Kamloops. I see that you have already copied Minister Terry Lake.

This is just a quick note to let you know that Minister Lake will be responding to your concerns on my behalf at my request.

It was good to hear from you again.

From: s.22
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2011 4:27 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Cc: Lake.MLA, Terry LASS:EX; Vinette, Nicole EAO:EX
Subject: Ajax Mine - Environmental Review Submission - July 2011

We are attaching our submission to the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office, which, we presume, is under the direction of the Minister of the Environment, Terry Lake. s.22

s22 when you came to Kamloops after announcing your candidacy. I was so very impressed with your "Families First" platform. However, it appears your Minister of the Environment is not aware of that platform, when he publicly supported the proposed mine on a radio talk show. This was immediately after the proposal was announced to the public at a meeting -- and the Environmental Assessment process had barely started. We, and many like-minded citizens would like to have an explanation as to where he actually does stand. Does he support saving our delicate and unique grass- and wetlands, or does he support an open pit mine, less than 2km from new neighbourhoods in Kamloops. The two cannot exist together. The families in Aberdeen/Pineview Valley/Knutsford do not want the pollution an open pit mine will bring. Please give your close scrutiny to the Environmental Assessment currently being done. Thank you for your attention. s22

144647

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2011 1:46 PM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Personal Impact Assessment regarding the AJAX MINE
Attachments: Personal Impact Statement of Ajax Mine in Kamloops and surrounds.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22
Sent: Monday, July 4, 2011 4:08 PM
To: Vinette, Nicole EAO:EX; Lyle Thompson; Cathy McLeod; Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: Personal Impact Assessment regarding the AJAX MINE

I enclose a PDF file regarding the AJAX MINE and my concerns. Thank you for your attention.

s.22

Environmental Assessment of the Ajax Mine in

Kamloops and surrounds.

s.22

I have many huge concerns about this mine, including disruption of ground water, structural damage to buildings, and total alteration of the underground water that flows into the Thompson river and Kamloops Lake.

The wind is often from the South or S.West, and would sweep over the City from the mine. Highland Valley copper mine wash the vehicles after the person has worked their shift at the mine, because of the dust that has collected on the vehicle. This dust has an unusually sticky feel, and is difficult to remove probably from the diesel oil used with the explosives.

Air quality is often poor during an inversion, which is not uncommon in the valley. With the huge amount of dust from drilling, and explosions & available literature, the amount of dust from open pit Copper mines is extremely high.-see the reference in Environmental Geology 2009 quoted on page 3.

Specific concerns re the mines Behaviour at the present time.

1) Why is the proponent already drilling and arranging with Kinder - Morgan to move the oil pipeline near Jocko Lake when (in theory) the E.A has not been approved by either the province or the Feds ?

2)The mine have also approached several ranchers to try and buy the land which would be involved in the open pit mine. This is not surprising , given the totally fluid statements ie untruths made by the mine.

Direct communication with First Nations , to people who have made contact with them have stated that no definite agreement has been made so far. Despite Abacus mining publishing a single page in Dec.2010 stating a provisional agreement had been reached with the Deadman Creek and the Kamloops Indian Band.

My 3 major concerns are-

Water consumption by the mine.

An excellent article published in **December 2010**
Water Consumption in Copper Mines in Arizona.
State of Arizona, Dept of Mines & Mineral Resources. Special Report 29.

It studies 9 open pit copper mines for the years 2004-2008
It broke down the water use at each of the 9 mines and gave the water use in gallons per pound of copper. Page 6 of the report.

If you average the 9 mines requirements over the 5 years it comes out at 23.7 U.S Gallons.

Ajax mine in their overview have stated that with mining 60,000 tonnes a day of material they hope for an annual production of 106 million pounds of copper.

THE WATER CONSUMPTION SHOULD THEN BE 106,000,000 X 23.7 U.S GALLONS OF WATER A YEAR.

THIS RESULTS IN 2.512,200,000 ie 2.5 BILLION GALLONS OF WATER TO BE TAKEN OUT OF KAMLOOPS LAKE EACH YEAR.

THE STORAGE OF THE TAILINGS

The storage of the tailings HAS NO FINANCIAL WORTH TO THE MINE.
Thus it will be stored in the most cost effective way possible. That is , as cheaply as possible.

Butte Montana which had an underground mine at the edge and as a part of the city, up until the 1950's .The surrounding hillsides were stripped of trees, waterways were polluted and large areas were covered with tailings.

The costs to the families and environment of Butte were extraordinary, and the costs are still being felt today as MUCH OF THE CITY IS PART OF THE LARGEST SUPERFUND HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP IN THE UNITED STATES

Despite all the assurances of the Mine, one will only know if there has been a tailings problem 23 years down the road.

An excellent review article is

Chronology of major tailings dam failures, last updated 22 Mar 2011.

May 26th 2011. On cbc.ca OFFICIALS mum on ant GiMine tailings pond flood.

Federal Officials were refusing to talk about the recent flooding of a tailings pond at the defunct Giant Mine near Yellowknife, raising concerns about toxic mining waste contaminating a nearby creek and lake.

You should look at the article, it gives a vivid picture of what can happen.

All of the terrain around this proposed mine slopes downhill to the Thompson river and Kamloops Lake.

There is huge underground system of springs and little creeks, which have emerged over the years at different portions of the huge portion of the countryside which is between the mine and the river. –Beware the effects of the results of the explosives on this not secure widespread system.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.

I would hope that both the B.C Government and the Federal Government are now following the systematic approach of assessing the Environmental impacts on the Kamloops area with its 90,000 inhabitants using the excellent method introduced in 2003 in Italy by

ROBERTO FOLCHI.

Reference: Environmental Impact Statement for Mining with Explosives:
This was A QUANTITATIVE METHOD.

And was presented at the **Annual Conference on Explosives and Blasting Technique, Nashville Tennessee. U.S A February 2-5 2003.**

The second reference, is ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY

(2009)58:205-216 also somewhat technical but outstandingly good, when you sift thro it, *shows the effect of Open pit mining in Iran in 4 types of mines* 1 gold mine, 2 iron ore mines & one open pit copper mine.

The good thing about this article is that the pits studied are not associated with smelters, and so makes a good and more valid comparison to the one proposed for Kamloops.

Also this study shows how valuable the Folchi method is, at giving snapshots at any given time.

It is excellently presented, and dismayingly vivid with the quantity of air pollution, & the effects on above ground, and below ground water.

On page 215, there is the comparison between the overall effects on each environmental component related to each mine.

Thank you for allowing me to express my concerns, which I believe should **NOT ALLOW THIS AJAX MINE TO PROCEED.**

kno

I know that the track record for saying no to a proposed mine, is almost unheard of in BC. This is not surprising, as there is a huge conflict of interest, as the BC Government is funding a large part of the initial exploration, and all of the Provincial E. A staff, are paid by the Government.

Amazing, it wouldn't be allowed in a Court of Law.

s.22

July 4, 2011

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Mondav. Julv 25. 2011 10:32 AM
To:
Cc: Vinette, Nicole EAO:EX
Subject: Proposed Ajax Project - Environmental Assessment

Ref: 100680

Dear S22

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the proposed Ajax Project (proposed Project) near Kamloops, BC.

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), for which I am Minister responsible, is charged with managing the assessment of proposed major projects in our province in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). The EAO is guided by the principle of fairness and undertakes objective environmental assessments, giving full and fair consideration to all interests.

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For more information on the proposed Project and the environmental assessment process, including opportunities for public involvement, I would encourage you to visit EAO's website at:
<http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/>.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Terry Lake
Minister of Environment

144724

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2011 2:50 PM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Processing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Green Category

From: Lake.MLA, Terry [<mailto:Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 4:22 PM
To: S22
Cc: Loiacono, Sabrina ENV:EX; Kully, Paula LASS:EX
Subject: RE: Processing

H S22

Thanks for your e-mail regarding the proposed Ajax Mine. The application is before the Environmental Assessment Office which considers all public input on the proposal. You can also follow the proposal as it makes its way through the process by visiting the EAO webpage at:

www.eao.gov.bc.ca

I have not been intimately involved in the application as I am expected to make a decision on the environmental certificate at the end of the process so I have to remain at arms length in order to maintain objectivity.

It is expected to take several years for this process to unfold.

Thanks again for your enquiry.

Sincerely, Terry

Terry Lake, DVM
MLA Kamloops North Thompson
Minister of the Environment

From: s.22
Sent: July 17, 2011 9:16 PM
To: Lake.MLA, Terry
Subject: Processing

Terry, just a few questions pertaining to the Proposed Ajax Mine.....1) Will Gold and Copper Ore be processed on site. 2) If so, will Processing Byproducts be produced, such as "Sulfur Dioxide" and "Sulfuric Acid". 3) Will Cyanide be used in the processing(Cyanidation) of Gold Ore.4)How much fresh water will be needed in Ajax's daily operation. 5) How does Ajax intend on getting the large amounts of water needed to the mine site. 6) Will a pipeline be built up to the mine from Kamloops Lake. 7) Can an approximate "Blasting" schedule be made available to the public. 8) Will there be Night Blasting.....I have written to

the Ajax Company itself but they will not respond. If you could supply the answers to these questions I would be grateful. Thank you for taking the time to read my e-mail.....I look forward to your reply..

S22

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 11:03 AM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Ajax Mine Site Proposal - Kamloops

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

From: Lake.MLA, Terry [<mailto:Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2011 4:16 PM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Ajax Mine Site Proposal - Kamloops

From: s.22
Sent: July-21-11 1:41 PM
To: Lake.MLA, Terry
Subject: Ajax Mine Site Proposal - Kamloops

Good afternoon Dr. Lake,

Congratulations on your reelection and being named Minister of Environment! We were pleased that you were given the opportunity to continue your good work in Victoria!

We are writing to you as concerned constituents. In March we received a copy of the Ajax Mine proposal that was submitted to the Provincial and Federal governments for approval to reopen a dormant mine site. We are not anti-mining, and appreciate the economic importance of resource based industry. When we first saw the Ajax proposal, it looked good - employment, revenue, and location. However, in the past few months more information has come to light that has us as Kamloops residents very concerned - information that the company in question has not been forthcoming with.

The company now fully admits that Jacko Lake, Inks Lake and the surrounding grasslands will be negatively affected. These are vital green spaces and an important part of the local ecosystem. Also, activities will be conducted within 2.5 km of existing residences in Pineview Valley/Aberdeen - close enough that blasting and heavy machinery operation will be heard and felt by residents, and that light pollution from the mine site will disturb the area due to the 24 hour 7 days a week nature of the operation. Large amounts of earth will be disturbed putting much dust and particulate matter into the air which will then negatively impact the air quality of the city, particularly the Pineview Valley, Dufferin and Aberdeen neighborhoods.

According to the research we have done, there is no other mining operation in the country which is as close to city limits and residential areas as this mine will be. If you examine existing operational mine sites, the towns and neighborhoods which support them and house their workers tend to be purposely established at least 10 times further away than will be the case if this mine is approved. One just has to look at the example of Logan Lake. This is purposefully planned so as to provide for the health and well-being of workers and their families; to minimize employee family exposure to noise, light, air, and environmental pollution. When we voiced some

of our concerns to a company representative at their open house presentation, the representative simply told us that the only concern of the company is making money, not the health and welfare of the local community - that those are matters for the government to worry about. This is not an adequate or reassuring attitude.

We understand that the City of Kamloops has requested more detailed information from the company regarding many of the concerns we have mentioned above. Hopefully the Provincial and Federal governments have as well? We expect that you have already received many letters, emails, and phone calls about the mine. Yes the proposal is about reopening an existing deactivated mine site. But since the original mine's closure the civic situation has changed. Development has been permitted to spread out toward the abandoned mine, which now means that many current Kamloops residents and many of your constituents(possibly yourself and your family?) will be have their health and quality of life compromised if this mine is approved, unlike the situation when the mine first operated. It is interesting to note that while the project may create some local employment, the bulk of the wealth to be had by reopening the mine will be accumulated by a foreign company and will not be reinvested in our community. And that the attitude of the company is that the government will be expected to pick up the tab for increased social and health care costs arising from mine operations.

We hope that you will consider our objections to the approval of the Ajax Mine, and will take our concerns seriously when reviewing the proposal.

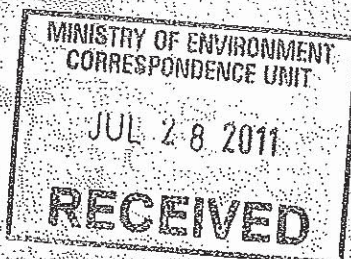
Your response and anticipated assistance are appreciated.

Sincerely,

s.22

144956

s.22



July 6th 2011

Dear Sir,

I am writing to most strongly protest the proposed Ajax mine project, to destroy land and lakes for the convenience and profit of a major mining company is nothing short of treachery. Kamloops will no longer be a tourists' destination but will become the next 'TRAIL' of BC. The effects of huge slag heaps dust and pollution will remain with us forever whilst the Ajax mining company will move on when they have stripped our land.

Therefore I urge you to reject this proposal.

Respectfully yours,

MINISTER'S OFFICE - REC
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

S22

JUL 22 2011

☒ Min Reply ☐ Reply Direct ☐ DM Reply ☐ Info/File
☐ Send Interim ☐ Redirect to _____
☐ cc: _____
CLIFF# _____

144 964

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: WWW ENVMail ENV:EX
Sent: Friday, August 5, 2011 9:52 AM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: 144577 S22 RE: Ajax Mine Proposal Comments
Attachments: AjaxMineProposal 11 03-62225 S22 Comments 11Jul11.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Orange Category

From: s.22
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2011 1:41 PM
To: WWW ENVMail ENV:EX
Subject: Re: 144577 S22 RE: Ajax Mine Proposal Comments

Mv humble apologies - see attachment. And apologies for delay in responding

s.22

s.22

----- Original Message -----

From: WWW ENVMail ENV:EX
To: s.22
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2011 3:55 PM
Subject: 144577 S22 RE: Ajax Mine Proposal Comments

Reference: 144577

July 18, 2011

S22

Dea S22

Thank you for your email of July 11, 2011, addressed to the Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment, regarding the proposed Ajax Mine.

In your email you note that you have attached specific comments; however, no attachment was received. Please reply to this email with a copy of the noted attachment at your earliest convenience.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Ministry of Environment
Webmaster

From

s.22

Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 2:58 PM

To: Lake.MLA, Terry LASS:EX; Kevin.kreuger.mla@leg.bc.ca; Christie.clark.premier@leg.bc.ca

Subject: Ajax Mine Proposal Comments

Attached are my personal comments about the proposed Ajax mine, almost half of which would be within the boundaries of the City of Kamloops. I have also been involved in drafting a letter from s.22 about this proposed development that will impact so many residents of our community. I would be happy to discuss my comments with you,

s.22

s.22

Nicole Vinette, Project Assessment Manager
Environmental Assessment Office Agency
PO Box 9426, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Ajax Copper-Gold Mine Project

Canadian Environmental Assessment
Lyle Thompson, Project Manager
410 - 701 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, B.C. V7Y 1K8

Reference #11-03-62225
Dea S22

Re: Environmental Assessment for the Ajax Copper-Gold Mine at Kamloops, BC

S22 s.22 I am familiar with legislation surrounding land use, and the fact that the Mines Act supersedes everything else. But this should not mean that a mine proponent can stand up in a public forum and say that a mine can go ahead regardless of how much local opposition there is.

I was more than pleased that the BC Auditor General released his Report: "2011/2012 Report 4: *An Audit of the Environmental Assessment Office's Oversight of Certified Projects.*" before the deadline for comments on the proposed Ajax Mine in Kamloops. It confirms the suspicions of many people in Kamloops that mines are not being properly monitored, that the chickens are in fact in charge of the hen house. The particular hen house being proposed for the southern portion of the City of Kamloops deserves more than the usual scrutiny for a number of reasons, not the least being that it is so close to a thriving City that values its natural amenities.

The Ajax mine proposal doesn't involve an area of the province "out in the boonies", 50% of the area to be disturbed is within the boundaries of a thriving, much-loved City. There will be a direct, measurable cost associated with the loss of ability to use the space to be covered by mine workings, the loss of value in houses, the loss to ranches adjacent to mining activity, the loss of enjoyment of personal space. When these very real costs are added up, the compensation bill, which I assume will be forthcoming, could very well far exceed any profits to be made from the mine.

I would like to comment on some specific items in this proposal, and hope that the people of Kamloops will be given sufficiently detailed answers that they can understand and appreciate the truly life-changing nature of this proposal. Kamloops Naturalists Club, Kamloops Fish & Game Club, Grasslands Conservation Council and the local Astronomy club and others will be covering many other issues:

s.22

Grasslands Ecosystems:

The understanding so far demonstrated by the proponents about grasslands ecosystems around Kamloops, their fragility and species of concern, does not give one faith that they truly understand the size and scope of the job required to restore them to their present condition after

mining ceases. A commitment must be made to complete a thorough study of the native species presently growing on or using the whole mine site, with a view to restoring as many of them as possible as use of mined areas ceases. "Native species" includes all those species, plants, animals, birds, insects, etc. that presently live in the proposed mine area. This should also include development of facilities to grow sufficient quantities of native plant species for planting out. The City of Kamloops completed a very small restoration project at Kenna Cartwright Park a few years ago using native bluebunch wheatgrass plugs grown in greenhouses, and could provide some advice and expertise. There is lots of expertise at Thompson Rivers University that could be called on, with students who need local projects to work on.

Waste Rock Piles:

The eastern waste rock pile is shown as being on the upper slopes of the valley of Peterson Creek, and within only tens of metres of the creek itself. Peterson Creek has 14 downstream domestic as well as 14 storage and irrigation licences on it. Peterson Creek is a fish-bearing stream and as such warrants special provincial protection. What studies are known/have been done on leaching from rock piles? It is essential that the mine proponents specifically address the issue of how the water licences will be protected, especially from drainage from the rock pile, and how fish values will be protected.

The northern rock pile will cover part of Wallender Lake, an unusual saline lake, with the same concern about runoff that seems to have been ignored. How does the proponent plan to protect the special saline values of this unusual lake?

Tailings Facilities:

There are many unanswered questions about the enormous tailings mound that will eventually be only 130 metres below the top of the adjacent Sugarloaf Hill. The City of Kamloops has made many improvements to the entrances to the City as a welcome to visitors, but have never aspired to anything as colossal as this proposal for the major highway entrance to the City.

The tailings facility is shown as being in an area of ponderosa pine forest that includes a transect being used for long-term research on the ponderosa pine ecosystem of the Thompson valley and its recovery from the devastating mountain pine beetle infestation. This forest has not been studied in much detail in the past and this current study will provide much-needed baseline data for understanding how the forest operates.

I have been on a field tour (as a member of Grasslands Conservation Council) and attended the Open House in June, but on neither occasion was the detailed information given on exactly how the tailings were to be handled. The proponent only gave more than a sketchy outline until specifically asked to explain how things will actually work on the ground. The enormity of the proposal for tailings handling and the impact on the local landscape, in full public view, is horrendous. Much more specific public information is needed about exactly how the tailings will be managed, all the way from the processing facility to the 180m high rock-covered mound and the tailings drainage.

Has this method been used before – if so, where?, and how effective is it? How reliable is it? What is the exact composition of the dust that could be created if the tailings dry out? What wind studies been completed to indicate how often, and how much dust will be flying through the air we breathe in Kamloops?

Inks Lake is to be used as the receiving are for drainage from the enormous tailings pond, presumably for as long as there is liquid draining from under the pile. There are a number of unanswered questions regarding this plan:

- how much drainage is anticipated (annually?, 5 years?, etc.)?
- how will the drainage be handled – by closed pipe?, open ditch? Or?
- how will the drainage be monitored?
- how large an area will eventually be covered, beyond the present footprint of Inks Lake?
- how will the drainage be contained? - since there is presently a channel connecting directly to Jacko Lake?

Artist sketches:

It will be much easier for Kamloops residents to appreciate the size and scale of what is proposed in this application if we could see coloured sketches of the various locations from both the Coquihalla Highway, Lac Le Jeune Road, Goose Lake Road and Long Lake Road. A series of sketches of each of the major areas of the proposed mine and their impact on the landscape: eg. - present landscape; what it will look like at years one, five, 10, 20, 23, 30.

Air, light and noise impacts:

These impacts on the City and especially the nearby residential areas (800 metres from parts of the proposed operation) are difficult to understand at present. But they are certain to have a direct and personal impact on the ranchers and City residents who live adjacent to or in close proximity to the most heavily used parts of the proposed mine. There is no mention in the present proposal for compensation for these resident from the activities of the mine.

The Wallender Lake area is a popular place for casual sky watching away from City lights – an activity that will be impossible if the mine goes ahead. Not just because the parking site will most likely be gone, but most importantly because there will be so much light in the sky that the stars won't be visible. A recent addition to the Stake Lake Ski Trails south of the proposed mine site on Lac Le Jeune Road is an observatory. This has been very popular in the short time it has been available, but light pollution from the proposed mine would completely remove any opportunity to observe the night sky there.

Public use of Lac Le Jeune Road

through an active mine operation. s.22 would have to drive 10,000 skier visits at the trails, per year, and includes about 250 vehicles on each of Saturdays and Sundays.

Lac Le Jeune Road is also the access road for many families who live in the subdivision at Lac Le Jeune and for people going to a variety of destinations year-round: Lac le Jeune Provincial Park, fishing, hunting, firewood gathering, hiking, snowshoeing, astronomy.

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments on this mine proposal.

145040

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 11:05 AM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Request for Independent Joint Panel Review for Ajax Mine
Attachments: Open panel.doc

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Red Category

From: Lake.MLA, Terry [<mailto:Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011, 12:34 PM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Request for Independent Joint Panel Review for Ajax Mine

EAO

From: s.22
Sent: July-22-11 9:40 AM
To: Lake.MLA, Terry
Subject: Request for Independent Joint Panel Review for Ajax Mine

July 22, 2011

The Honorable Peter Kent
Minister of Environment
House of Commons
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6

Dear Minister Kent,

I am writing this letter to urge you to refer the proposed Ajax Copper-Gold Mine Project to an independent joint panel review based on the considerations outlined below, pursuant to your authority under section 28 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* ("CEAA").

As you may know, the Ajax Copper-Gold Mine Project (the "Project") would be an open-pit copper mine sited partly within the City of Kamloops, producing 60,000 tonnes of mineral ore per day. The Project is currently in the early stages of a comprehensive study pursuant to CEAA.

We are convinced that a comprehensive study of the Ajax Copper Mine Project is not adequate to address the significant adverse environmental effects of the Project. The likely significant adverse environmental effects of the Project include:

- Destruction of agricultural and ranch lands that include sensitive native grasslands
- Air quality including toxic heavy metals, gas and particulates that could have significantly adverse health effects on Kamloops and area resident.
- Acid/toxic mine drainage from tailings and mine operations into water sources
- Noise pollution on a 24hr. 7day week 23 year proposed operation
- The tourism industry and related job opportunities
- The importance of quality of life and living in the quiet enjoyment of property
- The absorption of increased costs, financial and social to accommodate traffic, health care, increased greenhouse gas, electric power and other adverse environmental effects present and future
- Decreased property values
- Proximity to a large population, city and rural that poses a threat to safety as the result of waste rock pressure, tailings, explosive storage site and transportation and traffic increased on public roads
- Destruction of important wildlife habitat which hosts many red listed and blue listed species
- Destruction of fish habitat in both Jacko Lake and Peterson Creek.
- The relocation of water sources, an oil and gas pipe line and the filling in of water sources for project facilities
- Impact on Kamloops Lake and the Thompson River to supply fresh water to mine site
- A communities core values and defining unique features

The fact that this Project is to be partially located within the boundaries of the City of Kamloops and within close proximity of city and rural residences and schools means that the Project is of grave public concern to Kamloops residents and other local municipalities. This may be a precedent setting decision for the country.

In conclusion, we urge you to exercise your authority under section 28 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* to establish an independent panel review jointly with British Columbia to assess the sustainability and adverse environmental effects of the proposed Ajax Copper-Gold Mine Project.

Sincerely,

s.22

cc: Hon. Terry Lake, Minister of Environment, British Columbia
Cathy MacLeod, MP, Kamloops-Thompson-Caribou
Megan Leslie MP, Environment Critic, New Democratic Party of Canada
Kirsty Duncan MP, Environment Critic, Liberal Party of Canada
Elizabeth May MP, Leader, Green Party of Canada
Elaine Feldman, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Kevin Krueger, MLA, Kamloops-South Thompson

145873

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2011 10:42 AM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Proposed Mine at Jacko Lake

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

From: Lake.MLA, Terry [<mailto:Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2011 1:17 PM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Proposed Mine at Jacko Lake

From s.22
Sent: August-07-11 12:34 PM
To: Lake.MLA, Terry
Subject: Proposed Mine at Jacko Lake

Dear Mr. Lake, s.22 I have been following carefully the articles regarding the expansion of the mine, the comments both for and against by the people of the city and the responses from both yourself and municipal officials. Peter Milobar summed it up as far as the city's power over this by saying it would not matter what the city wanted. s.22 residents are depending on you as our environment minister and former resident of Aberdeen to make absolutely certain that if this project is allowed to develop our health, safety and property are protected. We should be informed now if any resolution to health or property damage will have to be settled in the courts. We are at least owed the truth on who if anyone will be responsible if serious issues arise. If no one will own up to this responsibility then we must rally as citizens and reject this mine proposal.

S22

145876

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2011 9:28 AM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Poisonous Blast Residue

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

From: Lake.MLA, Terry [<mailto:Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 1:29 PM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Poisonous Blast Residue

From: s.22
Sent: August-16-11 2:17 AM
To: Lake.MLA, Terry
Subject: Poisonous Blast Residue

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EE94SdynnfE>Terry, this Orange Blast Residue is poisonous. It is lethal if inhaled. There are three schools (Aberdeen ES, Dufferin ES and Pacific Way ES) as well as thousands of residents that are potentially at risk from drifting poisonous Blast residue. And this gas will drift.....aided by the never ending wind in Aberdeen (almost always in a North or North East direction) there's no telling how far this gas could travel. Eventually the gas will dissipate but with the Ajax mine being in such close proximity to a number of Kamloops communities, the concentration of this poisonous gas residue will still be strong and will pose a very real risk to the health and well being of thousands of residents. If I'm not mistaken, there is a planned future subdivision to be built in the upper Aberdeen area ,that would be when finished, be Aprox 900 meters away from the Ajax mine site. These residents will literally be in the line of fire..... Toxic chemicals (Lime Slurry/ Calcium Hydroxide.....Hydrogen Cyanide/ Blast Residue.....Ore dust containing heavy metals) Noise (From 260 ton truck back up alarms.....Pneumatic drills running at night.....Rock crushers running 24hrs.....Blasting) Water (Inks lake will now be turned into a Toxic Tailings Pond.....44,000 gallons of fresh water a minute required for operation.....of which the Effluent will be discharged into the environment....where that will be is unknown as of yet....will these nearby communities be effected?.....I won't go on and on.....But I must say this, no matter how much money Ajax throws at this City.....Kamloops residents do not deserve to have their surrounding environment, themselves, and their families health and well being gambled with.

Thanks for taking the time to read my e-mail.....All the Best,

S22

145878

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2011 9:30 AM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Ajax

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

From: Lake.MLA, Terry [<mailto:Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 10:25 AM
To: S22
Cc: Krueger.MLA, Kevin LASS:EX; Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: RE: Ajax

S22

Thanks for your note – I will forward it to the Environmental Assessment Office.

Cheers, Terry

Terry Lake
MLA Kamloops North Thompson
Minister of the Environment



From: s.22
Sent: August-09-11 3:11 PM
To: Lake.MLA, Terry
Cc: Krueger.MLA, Kevin
Subject: Ajax

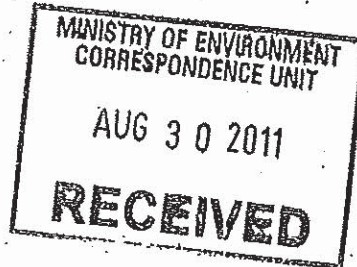
Mr.Lake.

pit operations during the construction off the road from the Afton mine site to Jacko lake and the east & west Ajax pits .During the operation of the Ajax pits we never had 1 complaint of noise from blasting or any concerns of dust and we hauled right past Jacko lake . Why all the concerns now . I think the people in Aberdeen have enough concerns with ground water and leave the mining to the people with the knowledge .

S22

u - EHO - file

152483



Telephone: 250-387-8745
Facsimile: 250-356-7440
File: 30200-20/AMIN-05-03

Ref: 100719

August 12, 2011

Jen Fretz
Sustainability and Environmental Services Manager
City of Kamloops
955 Concordia Way
Kamloops BC V2C 6V3

Min to View

MINISTER'S OFFICE - RECEIVED			
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT			
AUG 15 2011			
<input type="checkbox"/> Min Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Reply Direct	<input type="checkbox"/> DM Reply	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> InfoFile
<input type="checkbox"/> Send Interim	<input type="checkbox"/> Redirect to _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> cc: _____			
CLIFF# _____			

Dear Ms. Fretz:

Thank you for your July 11, 2011 letter regarding the environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed Ajax Project (proposed Project). In your letter, you outlined some of the concerns that the City of Kamloops has with the proposed Project and a series of questions that the City of Kamloops would like to have answered by KGHM Ajax Mining Inc. I note that you sent a copy of the letter to Jim Whittaker and Dianna Stoopnikoff of KGHM Ajax Mining Inc. (Proponent), so I will follow up with them to ensure that the concerns and questions outlined in your letter are included in the public Issues tracking table and are considered in the preliminary draft of the Application Information Requirements for the proposed Project.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise that the concerns and questions raised by the City of Kamloops will be explored in detail as the EA for the proposed Project progresses. As I indicated at the initial meeting of the Working Group on April 27, 2011, the proposed Project is still in the very early stages of the EA process. Although the Proponent has submitted a Project Description, the purpose of that document is to enable the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) to determine if an EA is required, and not to provide detailed information for assessment and analysis regarding the potential for significant adverse effects. The Project Description is simply the first of a series of progressively more detailed and refined documents and studies that will inform the eventual preparation of the Proponent's Application for an EA certificate (Application).

.../2

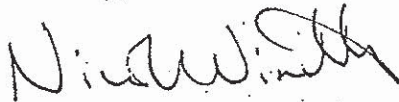
The next document that will be prepared for the EA of the proposed Project is called the Draft Application Information Requirements (dAIR). The dAIR will set out the all of the information that will eventually be required, and the questions to be answered, in the Proponent's Application. As a member of the Working Group for the EA of the proposed Project, I would encourage you to familiarize yourself with the intent and format of a dAIR by reviewing the Application Information Requirements Template, which is on EAO's website at http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/pdf/AIR_Template_oct2010.pdf.

Once the dAIR has been reviewed and finalized, the next step in the EA for the proposed Project will be for the Proponent to compile and submit its Application. The Application will provide all of the detailed information and answers to all of the questions previously identified in the dAIR.

I believe you indicated at the April 27, 2011 Working Group meeting that you are new to the EA process, so I would also encourage you to review the EAO User Guide on EAO's website at http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/pdf/EAO_User_Guide%20Final-april2010CI.pdf. The EAO User Guide provides additional information to supplement the introductory information I provided at the April 27, 2011 Working Group meeting regarding the EA process, including key steps, documents and review milestones.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me at Nicole.Vinette@gov.bc.ca or 250-387-8745.

Yours truly,



Nicole Vinette
Project Assessment Manager

pc: ~~Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment~~
✓ Ministry of Environment

Kevin Krueger, MLA
Kamloops-South Thompson

Cathy McLeod, MP
Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo

Mayor Peter Milobar and Councillors
City of Kamloops

.../3

Lyle Thompson, Project Manager
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Dan Wallace, Planner
Thompson-Nicola Regional District

Jim Whittaker, Project Manager
KGHM Ajax Mining Inc.

Dianna Stoopnikoff, Environmental Manager
KGHM Ajax Mining Inc.

152635

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2011 2:13 PM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Ajax Mine - Letter to Peter Kent, Fed Min Environ
Attachments: Ajax Mine - Letter to Peter Kent, Fed Min Environ.doc

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Purple Category

From: Lake.MLA, Terry [<mailto:Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2011 12:59 PM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Ajax Mine - Letter to Peter Kent, Fed Min Environ

From: s.22
Sent: August-15-11 12:55 PM
To: cathy.mcleod.c2@parl.gc.ca; Krueger.MLA, Kevin; Lake.MLA, Terry; lyle.thompson@ceaa-acee.gc.ca; Vinette, Nicole
EAO:EX
Cc: Judith Naylor
Subject: Ajax Mine - Letter to Peter Kent, Fed Min Environ

For your attention, please. Thank you. Note that this letter has also been sent to The Hon. Michael de Jong, with regard to our fears of the negative health effects if this project goes ahead. Thank you.

s.22

The Honourable Peter Kent,
Minister of the Environment,
House of Commons
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E6

14 August, 2011

Dear Sir:

Re: Proposed Ajax Mine – Kamloops, B. C.

We are writing to urge you to refer the proposed Ajax Copper-Gold Mine Project to an Independent Joint Panel Review, pursuant to your authority under Sec. 28 of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

Kamloops is a city of over 80,000 people, with this proposed project within 2 km of neighbourhoods, not the 10 Km put forward by the proponent in their applications to Federal and Provincial governments. This is particularly troubling because the consulting firm, at an April 27, 2011 meeting of the proponents with environmental and mining officials, stated that the project is partially within the city boundary of Kamloops. However, at a June 15, 2011 public meeting, Jim Whittaker, the Project Manager for Ajax, stated the project was ten km from Kamloops. It seems that Mr. Whittaker either had not done his homework, or was deliberately misleading the audience of close to 400 people, in addition to misleading government officials.

As you may be aware this open pit project is scheduled to blast 180,000 tonnes of rock EVERY day, in order to have 60,000 tonnes to process because the copper/gold content is so low. It will have a footprint of 2500 hectares (6000 acres). Two elementary schools are within 2.5 km and 3 km of the site.

We understand that the Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of the Environment for B.C. is encouraging a "harmonized" environmental assessment by the Provincial and Federal Environmental Assessment Offices. In view of the July 2011 review of post-certification practices of the BC EAO, found to be badly lacking by John Doyle, Auditor General of B.C., we strongly urge that you do not participate in the suggested "harmonizing". A pre-certification audit was not done, leaving one to speculate as to the effectiveness of that stage of the process.

we are highly concerned about the threat to the air quality, noise pollution, acid and toxic mine drainage into water sources. Our many other concerns include increased respiratory health issues and resulting increased health care costs; increased road maintenance costs, and loss of tourism dollars due to all these issues.

s.22

The perceived economic benefits do not outweigh the loss of quality of life for generations to come. Leave the minerals in the ground until they can be mined underground, and keep our air, water, grasslands, wetlands, burrowing owls and ranches safe for the future.
Yours truly,

s.22

Distribution List Attached

Distribution List - August 14, 2011 letter to The Honourable Peter Kent from
s22 regarding the proposed Ajax Mine, Kamloops, B. C.

S22

Peter Milobar, Mayor, City of Kamloops

Cathy McLeod, Member of Parliament

Kevin Kreuger, M.L.A.

The Honourable Terry Lake, M.L.A and Minister of the Environment

Lyle Thompson, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Nicole Vinette, Project Assessment Manager, Province of B.C.

Dr. Judith Naylor, Chair, Kamloops Area Preservation Association

152637

Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2011 2:13 PM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW:

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Purple Category

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Monday, August 15, 2011 2:18 PM

To: S22

Cc: Minister, ENV ENV:EX; Minister, EMH EMH:EX; Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX; Krueger.MLA, Kevin LASS:EX; Vinette, Nicole EAO:EX

Subject: RE:

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed Ajax-Afton copper-gold mine near Kamloops. We appreciate the time that you have taken to share your views with us regarding this proposal and the opinions of your local MLAs for the Kamloops area, the Honourable Terry Lake and Kevin Krueger.

As you may be aware, this proposal is currently in the pre-application phase of a review that will be conducted by the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). We note that you have shared your comments with the Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment and MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson, and Kevin Krueger, MLA for Kamloops-South Thompson. We have forwarded your correspondence to the Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines, the Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and Nicole Vinette, Project Assessment Manager with the EAO, for their review and consideration as well. You can be assured that your comments and concerns will be included in related discussions between the appropriate ministry, government and EAO representatives during the environmental assessment process.

You may be interested in learning more about the environmental assessment process and opportunities for public involvement by visiting the EAO web site: <http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/>, and http://a100.gov.bc.ca/appsdata/epic/html/deploy/epic_project_contacts_362.html.

Again, thank you for writing. We appreciate the time that you have taken to share your views with us and hope that this information is helpful.

pc: Honourable Terry Lake
Honourable Rich Coleman
Honourable Steve Thomson
Kevin Krueger
Nicole Vinette

From:

s.22

Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2011 8:55 PM

To: christy@christyclark.ca

Cc: Lake.MLA, Terry LASS:EX; Krueger.MLA, Kevin LASS:EX; mrothenburger@kamloopsnews.ca

Subject:

Hi Mrs. Clarke,

I write you this letter in an effort to understand the current Government structure in BC.

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Some homes are as close as 1km from the mine. There are many reasons why I don't believe that this is good idea – environment, proximity to urban setting, health, etc - but that isn't the point of this letter.

Here is what I don't understand -

s.22

s.22 The citizens of Penticton got to vote if they wanted a jail in their community, but the citizens of Kamloops are not afforded the same option. This mine will be a much larger operation with much bigger consequences than a jail would.

s.22 city council to manage the city also DO NOT get a vote. They have no say on whether or not the mine goes through.

Turns out that the only person that gets a say is Terry Lake, because he is the Environmental Minister. I did not vote him into that job. So the only person that gets to vote is the only person not voted into the position. I do not understand.

Even more mind boggling is Terry Lake has been interviewed stating that he thinks that the mine will be good for Kamloops. The jobs will be good for Kamloops economy. I understand that Terry Lake used to be the mayor of Kamloops but shouldn't the Environmental Minister be more concerned about the environment not the jobs????

Then to add further insult, Kevin Krueger's constituency assistant Joel Neustaeter responded to a letter from another concerned citizen stating and I quote:

"People often say, 'Let them mine where there are no people,' not realizing that the minerals are not evenly distributed across the landscape; God hid them where he put them, and once people have invested the risk capital to find and claim the needle in the haystack, they have the moral and legal right to determine whether those minerals can be safely and economically drawn from the subsurface."

Really?? God?? I find that response so incredibly insulting. It is absolutely ridiculous that he would email that response to a concerned citizen.

I have little faith in either Terry Lake or Kevin Krueger. I want to believe in our systems. I want to believe that citizens health and well-being are more important than money. That citizens voices will be heard. s.22 but
our Province seems broken.

Thank you for your time.

S22

Pages 85 through 87 redacted for the following reasons:

s.16