

Mycroft, Colleen V EAO:EX

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From: Carla Glessing <email address removed>
Sent: Wednesday, December 3, 2008 7:30 PM
To: EAOINFO EAO:EX
Subject: Prosperity Gold Copper Project

I am opposed to the Prosperity Gold Copper Project. I do not believe that the Environmental Assessment has:

1. Truly considered First Nations rights/needs in the area. I do not believe that they were involved in the process adequately. They are the people that live in the valleys in that area and this mine will directly impact their lives. I was at a meeting with a First Nations lady who lives in the Takla Lake area (north of Fort St. James). She was sharing with the group about how an area near their reserve was mined for a number of years. Then the mining company finished and left. The First Nations in that area are left with a mine that has been fenced off but continues to leach chemicals into their water supply poisoning their drinking water and poisoning all species that depend on that water.

I do not believe that a fair and just process has been completed. The First Nations people should not just be consulted ... that may fulfill the requirements of the law but it does not fulfill the requirements of respecting other humans and life in the area.

2. The document quotes the Brundtland Commissions definition of sustainability. I do not believe that this project is sustainable. A sustainable development does not emphasize one of the areas of sustainability (in this case economics) at the total cost of another (in this case the environment). The projected life for this project is only 17 to 20 years ... that is short-term and will cause immeasurable damage to the environment, fisheries, First Nations people for such short-term economic gains.

3. I have spent a lot of time camping in the Chilcotin and it is truly one of the last large, undisturbed natural spaces in BC, possibly the world. The beauty in the Chilcotin is amazing. I look at the picture in the document showing one of the beautiful valleys with a big strip mine in it and I am saddened. Yes, the mining corporation has proposed to move the fish and construct a new lake; however, who will want to fish in a lake that is downstream from the mine?

I am opposed to this project. At this point in time mining companies in Williams Lake are laying off employees. Why should a new project be started that is truly not sustainable. Why not invest the tons of money into new green economies that start to help our society learn to be less dependent on the natural resources we have as we are using these resources at an alarming rate, far faster than what the earth can actually sustain.

One last quote:

Conservation Strategy Vision Statement

The peoples of the Cariboo-Chilcotin are inseparable from the ecosystems in which they live and work. A long-term, vigorous economy; well-functioning governances; and strong social and cultural structures are ultimately based on healthy ecosystems. The sustainable future of the region is undeniably tied to ecological integrity and principles. Crucial to such eco-based sustainability are the actions of the empowered and involved communities, citizens and industry partners. Comprehensive, inclusive and integrated planning must be the norm. (Conservation Strategy, p. 39)

I listen to adds on the radio purchased by the Chamber of Commerce encouraging people to write letters fully supporting the Prosperity Project. The adds make it sound like this project will save our community from the downfall that has started and will continue due to the mountain pine beetle. But, my question is ... is this just another short term project that will destroy a precious area of our environment for only relatively short term economic gains? The environment must become the center of all our decisions not just something we can mitigate damages too ... let's for once do what is best for the environment, the economy and social networks.

Sincerely,

Carla Glessing

<contact information removed>