

From: Nate Beason [Nate.Beason@co.nevada.ca.us]

Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2009 10:14 AM

To: tom@cityofgrassvalley.com

Subject: ID-MD Mine DEIR

Tom- Please accept my comments re the DEIR.

1. Traffic: I concur with the NCTC staff comments stated in the letter of 16 January.
2. I concur also with the LAFCo comments submitted re a variety of areas.
3. A major concern: Effect of Dewatering on domestic wells: There is substantial concern among my constituents regarding this issue. I believe that many of their comments have merit. Generally, there is considerable uncertainty surrounding the extent and intensity of the dewatering operation in terms of geographical area and number of wells affected.

Based on informal meetings of my own with disinterested geologists and well company personnel, it is within the realm of possibility that a geographical area from Idaho-Maryland Rd. to You Bet Rd could be affected, including the entire Wolf Creek watershed. As the DEIR states "...it was not possible to develop a hydro geologic assessment capable of determining whether mine dewatering would adversely affect domestic water wells with any degree of certainty." It goes on to state "Furthermore, complete hydraulic separation between the deeper groundwater within the underground mine workings and the shallow groundwater within fractures and supplying domestic wells cannot be assumed."

I suggest strongly that the testing and evaluation of the dewatering effects on domestic wells is incomplete and requires further study, including well testing in the so-called low risk and very low risk areas. I urge that this process be carried out as part of the approval process.

Also, in regard to dewatering, although the DEIR contains statements about restoring water to impacted properties, there is no specific protocol in place. Once a reliable testing regimen has been conducted and adequate data has been collected, there should be a method in place to restore a permanent potable water supply to homeowners within days. By this, I don't contemplate water delivery by a means other than a permanent pipe for more than a few days. The DEIR's statements to the effect that water will be restored from a permanent NID source within 14 days is vague. Does this mean that a pipeline will be in place and the only delay will be connection time requirements? It is unrealistic to think water can be otherwise permanently restored in the time stated.

Lastly, I believe that the statement that the mine will be responsible for well failure for one year be reexamined. With the stated uncertainty about the impact of dewatering on wells, I would think that one could not predict that domestic users and their wells would be out of jeopardy in one year's time.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Nathan H. Beason

1st District Supervisor,
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