

Online Comment

Permit Portal: Air

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Comment:

Polymet proposes a hard rock, open pit mine in an area of the state that has already been heavily impacted by iron ore mining in the past. That mining has stripped all of the high grade iron ore from the region, thus most of the near-by towns have been left in an economic depression as iron mining ended its best day. Polymet promises to them high paying mining jobs and a restoration of their economic vitality. Copper mining in this area is vastly different from iron mining. The ore body being mined has sulfur in it make up, and that sulfur, beyond the harm of the digging itself, is what provides the problem. Run off from this mine will be laced with sulfur as long as water and the mine refuse exists. Sulphur will enter the environment though rain run off, local water ways, and in the underlying aquifer leaching other chemicals into the environment. This sulfur pollution will not end with the closure of the mine. Tailings ponds, reservoirs will not contain it. It will always be a part of that mines legacy. It will do harm to the people, flora, and fauna of the entire run off area. Money and a strong economy are excellent arguments for opening this mine. It will make investors a great deal of money that they can use for their own pleasure. It will give 200-300 people good jobs for a few years. On the other hand, this mine threatens to wreck the BWCA for the next millennium, perhaps destroy the underlying aquifer, and diminish the St. Louis River Valley from mine sight to St. Louis Bay on Lake Superior. I think the risk far out weight the worth of the metal and the jobs. I think it is a short sighted mistake to open this area to copper and other heavy metal mining. I think that the mining industry has no way to clean up the mess that they will necessarily make with this mine, and that future generation of Minnesotans, far from the mine site will pay the cost in their health and their tax dollars for the sake of a few men getting richer..

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Attachments?