



MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Salmon Trout River Needs Your Help!

Faulty Sulfide Mining Permit Poses Serious Threat
Tell Granholm Administration to Protect Clean Water

Background: On July 30, 2007, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) gave a preliminary “yes” to grant environmental permits to Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company to mine nickel and copper from sulfide ores beneath the Salmon-Trout River in northern Marquette County. But this isn’t like other Michigan mines – sulfide ores react chemically with water and air to make sulfuric acid, and would cause great harm to rivers, and potentially even to Lake Superior, if anything at all goes wrong in the mine. **The badly flawed decision is not the final one, however, and Sierra Club is demanding that MDEQ follow the law and deny the permits.** We’re also urging the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to deny a land use permit Kennecott would need to implement their proposal. Kennecott wants a Part 632 Non-ferrous metallic mineral mining permit, an air quality permit, and a groundwater discharge permit. And they want MDNR to grant both a 35-year surface use permit to occupy public lands, and a mine reclamation permit.

The MDEQ and MDNR will hold consolidated hearings on the five permits. The Sierra Club is urging our members to provide public comment on the 5 permits, from both technical and personal viewpoints. **The public comment period for all five permits ends on October 17, 2007 at 5:00PM.** The MDNR will consider the application for land use only after MDEQ issues all other permits.

Kennecott’s mining permit application and mining plan is fatally flawed. Sierra Club contends Kennecott failed to meet legal requirements under Michigan’s new metallic mineral mining law to demonstrate the mine won’t pollute, impair or destroy the natural resources of Michigan. “This burden has clearly not been met, and it is irresponsible do anything but reject the application and tell Kennecott to go back to the drawing board,” according to Marvin Roberson, Sierra Club Forest Policy Specialist. Among our greatest concerns is DEQ’s failure to require rigorous modeling needed to determine that the crown pillar, which holds up the top of the mine, will not cave in. “The administration allowed Kennecott to skip this modeling, leaving no assurance that the mine won’t cave in after Kennecott leaves,” according to Roberson. “We urge the Granholm administration takes this last opportunity to do the right thing, and protect Michigan’s environment, as well as the thousands of jobs that depend on it in the UP,” said Roberson.

ACT NOW TO STOP THE KENNECOTT EAGLE PROJECT MINE PROPOSAL!

FIVE WAYS YOU CAN HELP: (See back for all contact information.)

1. Tell Governor Granholm that granting these badly deficient permits is unacceptable. Tell her you expect her to be a champion for protection of Lake Superior, of the Upper Peninsula, the Salmon Trout River and the Yellow Dog Plains.

2. Speak at the public hearings (details below) – state your objections to DEQ’s proposal to issue a dangerously flawed mining permit, and testify against the proposed DNR land use permit.

Public Hearing Information:

Make sure to come early to find the Sierra Club information room right down the hall from the hearing location.

The DEQ and DNR will hold consolidated public hearings on the Kennecott Eagle Project as follows:

- **Sept. 10, 2007, 1-4:30pm & 6 – 9:30pm:** Northern Michigan University, Don H. Bottum University Center, second floor, 1401 Presque Isle Avenue, Marquette, Michigan 49855
- **Sept. 11 & 12, 1-4:30pm & 6 – 9:30pm and Sept. 13 from 1-4:30pm only:** West Branch Community Center, 253-299 Avenue A, Forsyth Township, Michigan, (located on the old K.I. Sawyer AFB, approximately 3.5 miles from County Road 553, just behind the MDEQ UP District office).
- **Sept. 19, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.:** Lansing Center, Rooms 203 and 204, at 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, Michigan, September 19, 2007.

SEE THE OTHER THREE ACTION ITEMS ON PAGE 2 OF THIS NOTICE!

3. If you can't attend the hearings, submit your written comments on the Proposed Mining Permit Decision to the MDEQ by the 5:00PM October 17 deadline. Use the address for the [DEQ/DNR Kennecott Comments](#) as below.

4. Contact the Natural Resources Commission members, using the addresses or phone numbers below, and let them know the 35-year land use permit would set a bad precedent and would be an extremely poor use of our state's public lands. Kennecott has requested an exclusive-use land-use permit which would fence off over 100 acres of publicly owned state forest recreational land from the public for 35 years. The DNR has never considered such a public-lands for private-use permit request before – and this permit could set a dangerous precedent. The Michigan Natural Resources Commission will consider comments and advise DNR director Rebecca Humphries on whether to grant this extraordinary permit.

5. Ask MDNR director Rebecca Humphries to deny the proposed land use permit directly. Tell her that you think it's not in the best interest of the state of Michigan to grant this foreign-owned private company a precedent setting, 35-year exclusive use land-use permit for more than 100 acres of public land. Let her know this decision could also irreparably harm the citizens and businesses of Big Bay and Marquette County, who rely on tourism as their economic driver.

Substantive flaws in the Kennecott proposed permits include:

- Kennecott submitted no additional information though DEQ requested “tables and maps clearly describing the impacts to hydrology in the area around the ore body.”
- Kennecott provided no additional information about acid generation for their rock storage facilities.
- Kennecott has not provided complete plans for mitigating or preventing impacts to endangered species.
- Kennecott has not provided an accurate description of the affected area, impacts to natural resources that would result from their operations, and remediation options for repairing those impacts.
- Kennecott provided no information on monitoring for nitrates from blasting migrating into groundwater.
- Kennecott made unsubstantiated claims about ability to identify and control 100% of acid-releasing sulfides
- Kennecott failed to ensure protection from Acid Rock Drainage in backfilled underground mine workings
- Kennecott is relying on unproven alkaline (limestone) additives to neutralize ARD in backfill material
- Kennecott failed to account for water movement in backfilled mine (Sulfides + Water = Acid Rock Drainage)
- Kennecott failed to account for Land Subsidence Potential
- Kennecott's application fails to demonstrate that financial assurance will cover all required costs – leaving Michigan taxpayers with the bill in the event of catastrophe

<p>Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, Michigan 48909 phone: 517-373-3400 Phone: 517-335-7858 - Constituent Services, FAX: 517-335-6863</p>	<p>Rebecca Humphries, Director Dept. of Natural Resources Mason Building, Sixth Floor P.O. Box 30028, Lansing MI 48909 humphrir@michigan.gov</p>	<p>DEQ/DNR Kennecott Comments Office of Geological Survey P. O. Box 30256 Lansing, MI 48909-7756 or by e-mail: DEQ-Kennecott-comments@michigan.gov (include "Kennecott Eagle Project comments" on the subject line of your email)</p>
<p>Commissioner Mary Brown 1624 Grand Avenue Kalamazoo, MI 49006 269-344-3738 (Office)</p>	<p>Commissioner Keith Charters (Chair) 126 Spring Hill Road. Traverse City, MI 49686 231-947-7566 (Office)</p>	<p>Commissioner Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. 2405 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48602 989-752-7957 (Office)</p>
<p>Commissioner Darnell Earley P.O. Box 70141 Lansing, MI 48908 517-204-6178</p>	<p>Commissioner John Madigan 831 W. Munising Avenue Munising, MI 49862 906-387-4468 (Office)</p>	<p>Commissioner Frank C. Wheatlake Reed City Power Line Supply 420 N. Roth Street, P.O. Box 147 Reed City, MI 49677 231-796-5491 (Home); 231-832-2258 (Office)</p>

For more information contact: Rita Jack, Water Sentinels Project Director, at 517-484-2372 or by email at rita.jack@sierraclub.org. More information is available at <http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/mining.shtml>