

KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY

Keweenaw Bay Tribal Center
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2007 TRIBAL COUNCIL

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November 20, 2007

RECEIVED

Ross Micham
UIC Branch (WU-16J)
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

NOV 27 2007

UIC BRANCH
EPA REGION 5

Subject: Combined Comments in Opposition to the Proposed Mining, Air Use and Groundwater Discharge Permits, Kennecott Eagle Mine in the Yellow Dog Plains, Marquette County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Micham,

Pursuant to your request, please find enclosed "Combined Comments in Opposition to the Mining, Air Use and Groundwater Discharge Permits" that were submitted by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, together with the National Wildlife Federation and the Huron Mountain Club, to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) on October 17, 2007 in connection with MDEQ's proposed decision to issue three permits (a mining permit, an air use permit, and a permit to discharge wastewater to groundwater) for the Kennecott Eagle Mine, which is to be located in the Yellow Dog Plains.

The proposed mine is in the immediate vicinity of the ancestral home of the predecessors of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, a federally recognized Indian tribe, and will adversely impact the rights of the members of the Community to hunt, fish and gather in the Yellow Dog Plains, as reserved under the 1842 Treaty between the predecessors of the Community and the United States of America, due to the adverse impacts the mine will have on the natural resources and environment in the Yellow Dog Plains.

In addition, the Community and its members are especially concerned about the adverse impact the mine will have on the place called Migi zii wa sin (Eagle Rock) by the people of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and other Ojibwa tribes, which is a cultural, historical and archeological significant site within the Yellow Dog Plains.

LAKE SUPERIOR BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

The Community looks forward to the opportunity of discussing these issues and other aspects of the Underground Injection Control permit with staff of Region 5 Environmental Protection Agency during your visit to the proposed mining site. In that regard, we would like to suggest December 12, 2007 as the day to visit the mining site and December 13, 2007, for a meeting with us in our offices in the Tribal Center, Baraga, Michigan.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information in connection with the foregoing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chuck Brumleve". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Chuck Brumleve, P.G.
Environmental Mining Specialist

Enclosure

cc w/o encl:

Luke Jones, Director, Indian Environmental Office, US EPA
Jennifer Manville, Michigan Tribal Environmental Liaison, US EPA