

TO: Board of Environmental Protection
FROM: Allan A and Kathleen Bennett
DATE: October 10, 2013
SUBJECT: Open-Pit Mining

We are sending this letter to indicate our feelings regarding the proposal to construct an open-pit mine at Bald Mountain in Aroostook County.

Here are some of the reasons we are opposed to this open-pit mine.

1. In the past the record of environmental control of open-pit mines has sometimes been disastrous. There are no guarantees that the mine owners would be in business for the long run, and that any long term responsibility for cleanup would be forthcoming.
2. Placing waste in containment depressions does not guarantee that these depressions would be safe forever. We know that there are many problems with Sulfide Mining and its potential damage to the environment.
3. The risk forever to people and wildlife in Aroostook County with the possible drainage into the Fish River and the Fish River Chain of Lakes, and finally extending into the St John River and Into New Brunswick and the Eastern Maine Watersheds.
4. The Department of Environmental Protection already has serious environmental problems from mines that were closed without the owners ability to restore these locations to LONG TERM safety guarantees.
5. How do we get a guarantee that when or if this proposal to strip mine, that the owners would be held responsible no matter how long it would present itself a danger to the environment.

We are therefore against any proposal for mining at Bald Mountain.. Any weakening of the protection of our waterways could affect future generations. Many people from far and near use our waterways and forests to hunt and fish and for recreation. Many people live on the shores and tributaries of the lakes and streams of the Fish River Chain of Lakes. They would be severely affected by any Acid Mine Drainage.

Signed:

Allan Bennett
Kathleen Bennett