



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



DAN WYANT
DIRECTOR

April 18, 2011

VIA E-MAIL

Ms. Catherine Parker, President
WAVE
322 West Ohio Street
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Dear Ms. Parker:

Thank you for your letter to Governor Rick Snyder expressing concerns over the Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company (Kennecott) Eagle Project mine. Governor Snyder asked the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to respond directly to your inquiry on his behalf.

The initial review of the mine design by an outside expert contracted by the DEQ indicated a possible risk of failure of the "crown pillar" or roof of the mine. In response, Kennecott redesigned the mine, leaving a thicker crown pillar. The same expert approved the revised design, as did a second expert hired by the DEQ who was chosen in consultation with groups opposing the mine.

Kennecott did, in fact, have a comprehensive environmental impact assessment done for the project, along with a mining and reclamation plan and a contingency plan to assure protection of public health, safety, and the environment in the event of accidents. The assessment includes an evaluation of the affected area outside the mining area. The permit for the project contains requirements for a comprehensive monitoring plan and includes protective measures for the transportation of ore to the mill site. Milling operations are covered under a separate permit because the proposed mill is remote from the mine site.

Michigan has a comprehensive mining law. After an exhaustive review with extensive public involvement, the DEQ concluded that Kennecott had met the requirements of the law. The permits and approvals granted by the DEQ and the Department of Natural Resources have been challenged in administrative appeals and in court, and the decisions have been upheld at every point so far. In conclusion, we believe the Eagle Project mine can be operated without causing harm to the environment, public health, or the tourism industry.

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If you need further information, please contact Mr. Harold Fitch, Chief, Office of Geological Survey, Resource Management Division, at 517-241-1548; fitchh@michigan.gov; or DEQ, P.O. Box 30256, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7756.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Wyant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "W".

Dan Wyant
Director
517-373-7917

cc: Governor Rick Snyder
Mr. Jim Sygo, Deputy Director, DEQ
Mr. Randy Gross, Director of Legislative Affairs, DEQ
Ms. Liane Shekter Smith, DEQ
Mr. Harold Fitch, DEQ