Save Rochford & Rapid Creek

Large scale gold mining can cause a large scale environmental disaster!

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Former Mining Company President
SD School of Mines Graduate
Born & Raised in the Black Hills
Concerned US and South Dakota Citizen
1. Largest water shed flowing east from the Black Hills
2. The tap water in Rapid City comes from groundwater sourced from the Minnelusa and Madison aquifers. Surface water is also used from the Deerfield and Pactola reservoirs to supplement the supply.
Mineral Mountain Resources Ltd.

- HQ Vancouver, British Columbia
- Mineral Mountain Resources has stated that it wants to establish "another Homestake Mine."
- Holds 19 purchased claims and 308 unpatented claims totaling approximately 7516 acres. (Wharf Mine is 5400 acres)
- Directors and Management are Canadian
- President and CEO Baker received Mining Technology diploma from Haileybury School of Mines in Canada and BS in Geol Engr from SD School of Mines in 1969.
- President and CEO affiliated with 12 other organizations- All of them Canadian based.
The Environmental Hazard

• **Total Landscape Destruction.**
  7516 acres will never look or be the same creating a permanent eyesore along Mickelson Trail. Wharf moved 4.2M tons of ore in 2015 (280,000 tandem dump trucks full)

• **Cyanide Heap Leach Accident.**
  Heap leaching leaves behind large amounts of toxic waste laden with cyanide and heavy metals. To dispose of this waste, mines often construct a dam and place the waste inside. These dams, however, are not always structurally sound. They can leak or even fail.

• **Acid Rock Drainage ARD (Acid Mine Drainage - AMD)**
  Acid rock drainage (ARD) or acid mine drainage refers to the acidic water that is created when sulphide minerals are exposed to air and water and, through a natural chemical reaction, produce sulphuric acid. ARD has the potential to introduce acidity and dissolved metals into water, which can be harmful to fish and aquatic life. Preventing and controlling ARD is a concern at operating mine sites and after mine closure. All Black Hills large scale gold mines have ARD issues.
History of large scale Gold Mining in the Black Hills

1. **Homestake Mine** - the company is still liable for all of its facilities in the state except for those that immediately surround the underground mine property. No known environmental issues at the underground laboratory.


3. **Richmond Hill Mine** - ARD was detected in runoff from the mine’s valley-fill waste rock depository in 1992. LAC Minerals’ Richmond Hill mine is now an example of a successful ARD “reclamation” project.

4. **Wharf Mine** - It has operated for nearly 30 years without encountering significant acid producing conditions. Also, the historic mines in the proposed permit area, which date back to the late 1800’s, have not been a source of significant acid mine drainage.

5. **Gilt Edge** – A world class ARD disaster and EPA super fund site costing taxpayers an estimated $89M to reclaim plus long term monitoring and maintenance paid for by SD taxpayers.

* The Richmond Hill Mine is the only fully reclaimed mine.
Mine Environmental Disasters in the US  
(a list just a few!)

- Gold King Mine - CO, 2015: 3 million gal. of toxic water into Animus River contaminating 4 states
- Summitville Mine – CO, 1991: 85,000 gal. of toxic waste
- Berkeley Pit – MT, 1982: Superfund Site
- New Idria Mercury Mine – CA: Superfund Site
- Jamestown Mine – Harvard Pit – CA
- Mount Polley – BC, Canada, 2014: 14 million cu. meters of contaminant into Lake Polley and down stream
Mine Spill Accidents Still Happen
Is This What We Want To Happen To Rapid Creek and Rochford?

Gold King

Wharf Mine
This is the Rochford Area with the Wharf Mine disturbance superimposed. Wharf has 5400 acres - Mineral Mountain has 7516 acres
The Regulators

- Private Property Mining Claim
- National Forest Mining Claim
  - Pennington County
  - DENR
    - South Dakota Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources
  - US Forest Service
    - Black Hills Nat’l Forest
The citizen tax payers of South Dakota demand that the DENR find the ROCHFORD AREA to be mined by Mineral Mountain Resources are in fact SPECIAL, EXCEPTIONAL, CRITICAL and UNIQUE

- Any prospective mine operator is required under ARSD 74.29:10:02 to request the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to determine whether the lands included in the proposed mining operation have special, exceptional, critical, or unique attributes by submitting a notice of intent to operate to the department. As part of the notice of intent to operate, the mine operator must include a detailed assessment on whether the lands in the proposed mining operation meet the following criteria of SDCL 45-6B-33.3:
  1. The land is so ecologically fragile that, once it is affected, it could not return to its former ecological role in the reasonable foreseeable future;
  2. The land has such a strong influence on the total ecosystem of which it is a part that even temporary effects felt by it could precipitate a system-wide ecological reaction of unpredictable scope or dimension; or
  3. The land has scenic, historic, archaeological, topographic, geologic, ethnologic, scientific, cultural, or recreational significance.

If the proposed mining operation is placed on the preliminary list of special, exceptional, critical, or unique lands, a final determination on whether the lands should be designated as special, exceptional, critical, or unique will be made by the Board of Minerals and Environment during the hearing on Mineral Mountain’s large scale mine permit application. The designation will not necessarily preclude mining in the proposed area.
Besides the DENR also apply public outcry to these agencies as well

The mining company must submit a copy of the Request for Determination of Special, Exceptional, Critical, or Unique Lands & Notice of Intent to Operate to the Register of Deeds of the county where the proposed mining operation is located.

The mining company must submit a copy of the Request for Determination of Special, Exceptional, Critical, or Unique Lands & Notice of Intent to Operate to the following agencies:

- **Lucas Lentsch**  
  Department of Agriculture  
  Foss Building  
  523 E Capitol Ave.  
  Pierre, SD 57501

- **Stan Michals**  
  Dept. of Game, Fish, & Parks  
  4130 Adventure Trail  
  Rapid City, SD 57702

- **Mike Fosha**  
  Dept. of Tourism  
  Archaeological Research Center  
  PO Box 1257  
  Rapid City, SD 57709

- **Jay Vogt**  
  Dept. Of Tourism  
  State Historical Society  
  900 Governors Drive  
  Pierre, SD 57501

- **Jim Hagen**  
  Department of Tourism  
  Office of Tourism  
  Capitol Lake Plaza  
  500 E. Capitol  
  Pierre, SD 57501
36 Minutes to Disaster

Rapid Creek meanders about 12 to 15 miles before it enters Pactola Reservoir. If an environmental disaster happens at the Rochford mine during a high water runoff period with water flow rates at 25 miles per hour it would only take 29 to 36 minutes before Pactola and Rapid City water is contaminated.

Its high time our public servants in the DENR and USFS place the concerns of its citizens ahead of the profits a foreign mining company.
Sources

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