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## **Top 12 Reasons to Say “NO” to a Metallic Sulfide Mine on the Yellow Dog Plains**

### **1. The risk to the tourism industry for temporary jobs isn’t worth it.**

Tourism continues to be one of the Upper Peninsula’s strongest industries, gaining international recognition in 2006 as one of the top 10 summer destinations in the world. In Marquette County alone, tourism is directly responsible for at least 1,700 jobs. Local businesses and organizations have worked hard to raise Marquette County’s tourism profile on the national scene. Nature tourism is one of the fastest growing segments of the tourism industry, making locations like the Yellow Dog Plains highly coveted by silent sport enthusiasts. Conversely, the proposed Kennecott mine would yield fewer than 100 local jobs for fewer than seven years. No sustainability – just risk.

### **2. Short-term proposals are not real economic solutions.**

Michigan and the Upper Peninsula need an entirely new approach that involves looking toward the future, not back at the past. While some of the mines in the region have provided long-term economic benefit, sulfide mining is an entirely different proposition. Short-term proposals like the Eagle Project only distract our leaders and economic developers from real, long-term growth and prosperity. Six or seven years from now, we will face the same dilemmas concerning jobs, industry, and our community’s future. We could also find ourselves dealing with contamination, plummeting property values, and a declining tourism industry. We are too smart to settle for crumbs proffered by sulfide mining.

### **3. Promises from an international mining company aren’t enough.**

Kennecott’s application says it will “design a system that will not leak.” There is no scientific evidence or research indicated in the application to support this statement. Just the assertions of a company that stands to export profits from our region and direct them to a corporate headquarters overseas. This is one example of many instances in the permit application where Kennecott offers nothing more than its assurance. Additionally, there is a notable lack of satisfactory contingency plans. Marquette County residents deserve more than vague promises.

### **4. Water is currency in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy.**

Sources as diverse as the Michigan Land Use Institute, Forbes Magazine, and the Environmental Protection Agency all agree that, in the words of the EPA, “water is the fuel that powers the nation’s economy.” Whether they are referencing the need for clean water in developing countries or the billions spent on recreational activities tied to fish and wildlife, all agree that those with the water make the rules. It is unimaginable to think that Michigan would jeopardize this incredible resource by placing the Salmon Trout River, Yellow Dog River, Lake Superior, and all of the Great Lakes at risk. It is OUR water, OUR legacy, OUR responsibility.

### **5. This is not your father’s iron mine.**

There are no two ways about it – metallic sulfide mining is absolutely different than the iron mining of Marquette County’s heritage. It involves reactive ores and unproven technologies. The jobs are limited in number and duration and the risk is unbounded. Don’t be fooled by those who compare it to our mining history.

## **6. Transportation concerns have gone unaddressed.**

Kennecott's permit requests permission for trucks to carry sulfide ores down Wright Street through the campus of Northern Michigan University and the City of Marquette. Other indications are that residents living on County Roads 550 and 510 will see heavy trucks pass their homes as many as 200 times per day. For its part, Kennecott Minerals is making no commitments and offering little information about transportation routes in their permit application. With concerns about health and quality of life, residents are reasonably demanding to be heard and the Big Bay Visitors Bureau's request for alternative routes should be addressed, too.

## **7. The threat to human health is real.**

The U.S. Geologic Survey plainly states that one of the many problems associated with mine drainage is polluted drinking water. Leaching can lead to the concentration of heavy metals and arsenic in private wells and watersheds. The human health risk posed by the proposed sulfide mine on the Yellow Dog Plains is unacceptable.

## **8. Contamination concerns at Kennecott's Flambeau Mine in Ladysmith, WI**

Continuing contamination at Flambeau Mine has been a source of concern for many, including the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission. According to Commission officials, Kennecott's attempts to resolve the problem has been unsuccessful since it was first discovered in 1999. Removal of a rail spur and its gravel base were not enough. Recently, Kennecott was ordered to remove the top four inches of soil over a 10,500 square yard parking area thought to be contaminated. The source of the contamination is still a question, creating just the kind of uncertainty we seek to avoid in Marquette County and on the state lands Kennecott proposes to use for their facilities, ore crushing and waste disposal processes.

## **9. The Coaster Brook Trout and Kirtland's Warbler are worth protecting.**

With the Kirtland's Warbler on the endangered species list and the Coaster Brook Trout currently under consideration for federal protection, construction of mines in their habitat is completely unacceptable. Our nation recognizes the importance of preserving endangered species and no project should be allowed to jeopardize their protection.

## **10. Kennecott track record a cause for concern.**

The Environmental Protection Agency annually lists the top sites releasing toxic waste and two Kennecott Mines are listed in the top 6 – Greens Creek, Alaska, and Bingham Canyon, Utah. At a different site in Wisconsin, soils at the Flambeau Mine site continue to show the release of contaminants and water from the site continues to carry contaminated discharge into nearby streams. These examples raise two important questions. Can a sulfide mine exist without contaminating nearby water and soil? Has Kennecott proven it can operate this mine without the risk of contamination? The answer to both is a NO.

## **11. Groundwater Discharge Application deemed incomplete since February!**

In February, the MDEQ determined the Kennecott's groundwater discharge application was incomplete. Many months later, that still has not been addressed.

## **12. People continue to tell government: "We don't want this mine"**

Consistently, individuals have gathered, written letters, signed petitions, formed groups and more – all for the purpose of telling local and state officials that this is a bad idea for Marquette County and the Yellow Dog Plains. More than 15 opposition groups exist, ranging from landowners, to students, to conservationists, to business owners and professionals. These aren't radical tree-huggers portrayed by the industry. They are doctors, lawyers, miners, students, parents, homeowners, and neighbors. Mostly, they are prudent people who love the Upper Peninsula and the Yellow Dog Plains and they know it's not worth the risk.