



October 25, 2011

The Honourable Peter Kent
Minister of Environment
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H3

File No. CR-2774

Dear Minister Kent:

Re: Ajax Mine Proposal - Federal Review Panel

On October 7, 2011, Kamloops City Council passed a resolution requesting that the Ajax Mine project be elevated to a Federal Review Panel. As you are aware, this proposed mine is within our city limits and is approximately 1.4 km from the nearest current residence. Our questions regarding this proposal are extensive and relate directly to the vicinity of a mine to our city of 87,000 people. We feel that allowing panel experts to review the project information is the best way to ensure a fair and independent process.

There is significant community concern around the proposed mine and we feel that a federal panel providing answers would provide a greater comfort for the citizens of Kamloops. A few, but not limited concerns, are that the nearest subdivision has experienced groundwater issues in the past, and people are uncertain what effects, either positive or negative, the mine will have. The mine will have prevailing winds flowing over their rock piles and into the city, and as such, we are concerned what those impacts will have to our air shed from the dust.

Another major concern that will have to be addressed is the issue of blasting, including the short and long term effects that blasting will have on the immediate and surrounding areas. The frequency and time of day of the blasting, as well as potential vibration of the neighbouring houses is an issue. It is our understanding that the Federal government is the regulatory body with regard to explosives.

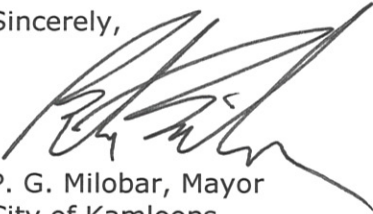
Council recognizes the importance of mining to our local economy; however, due to the close proximity of the mine site to a large existing residential development, a panel review seems in order to ensure all concerns are identified and addressed.

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Additionally, by copy of this letter, we are requesting that the Province maintain the existing Environmental Working Group for the project. We value our role as a working group member and would like this group to remain in place for the duration of the assessment process.

Sincerely,



P. G. Milobar, Mayor
City of Kamloops

JF/ml

cc: Cathy McLeod, MP Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo
Hon. Terry Lake, Minister of Environment - MLA Kamloops-North Thompson
Kevin Krueger, MLA Kamloops-South Thompson
Environment Canada – Colleen Hanlan, Project Manager
BC Environmental Assessment Office – Nicole Vinette
Thompson-Nicola Regional District - Dan Wallace, Planner
KGHM-Ajax - Jim Wittaker, Project Manager
Dianna Stoopnikoff, Environmental Manager