

My husband and I built our home in Lake County 17 years ago. I grew up knowing about Leadville before I probably realized that there was a Colorado. My father trained at Camp Hale during WWII. There was a confluence of factors that brought us here, the marriage of our daughter to a young man from Colorado and their decision to make their home in Colorado Springs, friends purchasing land in Lake County and that my husband graduated from high school in Colorado Springs when his father was stationed in Colorado Springs and in high school skied at Camp Hale (now Ski Cooper). Somehow, it just seemed there was something telling us to have a presence in Colorado. We visited Lake County and Leadville and loved it.

Our vision was realized with the purchase of property large enough for family and friends to visit and hike and use mountain bikes and four-wheelers. Our time with grandchildren as they have grown up is priceless. I cannot imagine anywhere else that would be as special. We volunteer, participate in a range of activities and donate to local charities. It is our community.

I know that anecdotes do not figure in your decision making but I believe that context should be taken into consideration when evaluating an opposition. I think it is important to understand who is opposing this application. It is people that care most about Lake County and Leadville.

I have been working on the issue of opening this mine for nine (9) years, along with several of my neighbors. We opposed it before the current owners acquired the property. One of the critical issues for the owners nine (9) years ago is the same for the owners today:

THE WATER REQUIRED TO OPERATE THE PROPOSED MILL.

I am troubled at the lack of specificity in many aspects of this application, but I will leave it to others to point those out. With regard to water, it is the assertions of claimed sources without evidence of actual feasibility that DRMS should find troubling.

WELL OPTION

They cannot drill any additional wells on their property and cannot obtain rights from neighboring properties (the previous owner attempted that). That was the conclusion of our research nine (9) years ago. There is no change in Colorado law or Lake County requirements since that time that would change that outcome. CJK should have to prove to DRMS **NOW** that the option is viable or formally abandon it.

PARKVILLE WATER DISTRICT (PWD) OPTIONS

USE OF LEADVILLE SANITATION DISTRICT WATER LINES

It is completely disingenuous for CJK to suggest obtaining water from this source using the Leadville Sanitation District's lines. The following is from the minutes of the December 14, 2023 meeting:

"There is opposition to CJK's milling process that uses cyanide. Chair Berget(sic) moved to deny CJK's request to tap off the district's 4" line for their water, seconded by Director Mudge, all voted in favor."

TRUCKING WATER FROM THE CITY OF LEADVILLE

The second proposal is the purchase of water from PWD and trucking it from the City of Leadville to the mill site. CJK has stated that they will need 7.4 MILLION gallons of water per year. How many trucks daily is that? Is their proposal regarding their holding tank in any way realistic? Currently there is no holding tank.

NONE of CJK's proposals regarding the source of water to operate the mill are feasible. DRMS should not approve an application that includes so many inconsistencies.

I strongly urge DRMS to deny this application.