

Objection Letter RE: Permit Number M1990057

To Whom It May Concern:

We object to the proposed operation of the Leadville Mill from a variety of aspects. The use of cyanide in processing is most troubling. Even though it may be industry standard to use the toxic chemical, it is not standard to be used so close to homes and residential wells. We can find no instance in the United States where this has been acceptable practice. There can be no guarantees against cyanide leakage that assuage our concerns. We are worried about cyanide and other toxins leaking into our water table. It is especially concerning at a time when the frequency and severity of toxic releases is increasing exponentially nationwide. The dry-stack method is no less worrisome as toxic materials once disturbed, are more prone to becoming airborne and inhaled and absorbed, certainly by those of us who live nearby, and probably by many thousands downwind. We worry about the detrimental effects the operation of the mill will have on the wide variety of wildlife that live in the area with us, on communities downstream on the Arkansas River, fishing, boating and other tourist-related activities that are the economic lifeblood of our area.

CJK has claimed in the recent past they will be using 30,000-40,000 gallons of water per day. (Currently, that figure has been lessened. One must question why.) To put this into perspective, CJK will be consuming more water in a day than our family of four uses in a year. We can say this with certainty because we monitor our water usage. As water is considered liquid gold in the west, we question the effect so much water usage will have on Lake County's water supplies, both wells and municipal sources. There is a much better use for our water.

CJK suggests that wildlife is scant in the area of the mill, yet we assert as homeowners who live within walking distance of the mill and would be directly affected by any "releases", we see an abundance of wildlife including deer, elk, coyotes, foxes, woodland squirrels, an occasional bear, even a pine marten and a variety of birds of prey. Additionally, the disturbance of and transport of slag or other materials to the mill, is worrisome on a variety of grounds. And since the Mill is located in forest land, we also ponder what effects a wildfire engulfing the Mill and burning deadly chemicals could have on its immediate neighbors as well as the entire Lake County community. We feel the health and welfare of ourselves, our families, our pets, our water table, land, wildlife and community is endangered, as is all that we have worked for all our lives. Should there ever be a toxic release,

our financial investments in our homes and businesses, not to mention all that we hold dear, will be obliterated. Who would be held responsible for the destruction?

We would also like to reiterate that according to research, this may be the only instance of a mill immediately adjacent to homes and residential wells, not only in the state of Colorado but in the entire country. It is hard to believe that no regulations exist to prevent such a threat and Americans no longer have a right to feel secure in themselves and their homes, as is guaranteed to us by the United States Constitution.

Again, we wonder who will be held accountable, God forbid, should there be a leakage or toxic release causing an environmental and human health disaster. Certainly, the mill itself, but what entities that promoted it or allowed it to operate with deadly chemicals so close to human habitation will also be liable?

Over the past several decades, countless hours of work and millions of dollars have been spent on repairing the devastating impacts of historic mining in Lake County on the Upper Arkansas River and its tributaries, particularly in the California Gulch watershed where the Leadville Mill and much of the targeted waste is located. As a result, the Upper Arkansas is now the longest continuous stretch of Gold Medal water in the nation.

We ask DRMS to consider if the risks of this project to the Leadville community and the surrounding environment are worth the benefits. We ask DRMS to carefully consider the following:

- Does the CJK proposal adequately identify groundwater depth throughout the site or the preferential flow pathways/rates? In the instance of a spill, it would be necessary to have groundwater defined. Groundwater mapping would also play into a remediation plan in the instance of a spill. Those pathways must be identified and mitigated during an emergency to reduce impacts on drinking water supplies including wells in the area.
- Has CJK properly addressed concerns around the daily operations of the mill, such as mitigating impacts to wildlife and exposure to materials with elevated sodium-cyanide? This can include both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife/organisms.
- Has CJK properly addressed the disposal of processed waste throughout the life of the mine? Where will processed waste be disposed of or remediated to

reduce impacts on human health and the environment? Does the life cycle of the proposed disposal plan fully mitigate the risks of its location in a highly sensitive environment?

- Does the CJK proposal address the risks to the community and the environment of disturbing the east side waste piles? The potential for release of toxic materials into the air, surface water, and groundwater must be addressed both during and after excavation. These waste piles have stabilized over time and disturbing them will increase the potential for erosion of freshly exposed surfaces by wind and water.

Thank you for your time, consideration and opportunity to voice our concerns.

Sincerely,

Patti and Brian Nagel