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Dear Neighbors:

Those of us that live here are familiar with an old expression: "You've been sold a bill of goods." We at Revett Minerals believe that's what happened to the community of Sandpoint, many in Bonner County and elsewhere. The Rock Creek Alliance and others have sold you a bill of goods, fabricating myths about our project which the facts show to be misstatements at best.

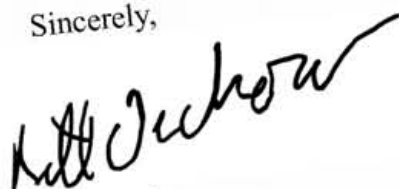
The fact is the water we will release into the Clark Fork is primarily naturally occurring groundwater collected from the underground mine, which will be run through two stages of water treatment systems to ensure that it meets or exceeds both drinking water and aquatic life standards. The quantity and quality of excess water at Rock Creek is expected to be the same as at our currently operating Troy Mine. Troy's water is not treated through a water treatment plant because the tailing facility acts as a natural sand filter. After over 20 years of monitoring, including aquatic life analysis, the mine has demonstrated that the water resources near these types of projects are not at risk of degradation. That's a fact, and incontestable, as acknowledged by the state and federal agencies charged with protecting the public interest including the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

Another indisputable fact is that our tailing impoundment will be an engineered, dewatered stack of sand (which is what the tailing literally is, beach sand) located about a half a mile from the river, and north of both Highway 200 and the local railway line. To hear the Alliance talk, this tailing impoundment will be a pool of toxic stew, perched on the banks of the river that could rupture and flow into the Clark Fork and pollute Lake Pend Oreille. That's incorrect and a misrepresentation of facts.

Instead of listening to more one-sided myths intended to negatively influence your opinion, we invite anyone and everyone to listen to the facts, and tour our Troy Mine. In doing so, you will learn what Rock Creek is, how it will fit into the surrounding environs, and be able to discuss your concerns directly with us (an invitation your City Council and County Commissioners declined).

Despite the lack of welcome on the part of some, we still intend to be good neighbors, and you'll find that we are good for our word. And if you choose, you will find that our projects are truly compatible with the environment while providing an economic benefit for your community.

Sincerely,


Bill Orchow


Carson Rife