

RESOLUTION NO. 2-2003  
CITY OF CLARK FORK, IDAHO

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CLARK FORK, IDAHO, EXPRESSING CONCERN REGARDING THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ROCK CREEK MINE ON THE WATER QUALITY OF THE CLARK FORK RIVER AND LAKE PEND OREILLE.

WHEREAS Sterling Mining Company is proposing to construct a large copper/silver mine in the Rock Creek drainage of the Cabinet Mountains located in the lower Clark Fork River basin 25 miles upstream from Lake Pend Oreille; and

WHEREAS up to three million gallons per day of mine wastewater, treated with experimental wastewater treatment systems, would be discharged into the Clark Fork River and eventually end up in Lake Pend Oreille. The wastewater would contain heavy metals from the ore, including cadmium, copper, zinc, arsenic, manganese, aluminum, mercury, and lead, all of which are toxic to aquatic life and detrimental to water quality at certain concentrations. In addition, nitrogen and phosphorous would add to the nutrient load in the river and lake; and

WHEREAS further degradation of the watershed would result from perpetual heavy metal seepage from the tailings impoundment, which would be located next to the Clark Fork River and Rock Creek; and

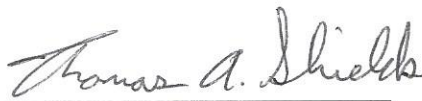
WHEREAS the City Council has serious concerns about the past mining activities of officials associated with Sterling Mining Company, including past projects which left communities and taxpayers responsible for reclamation of massive environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS the concerns outlined by the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality, including the impact to Lake Pend Oreille, have not been adequately addressed during the permit process.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLARK FORK, BONNER COUNTY, IDAHO, THAT:

1. The City Council of the City of Clark Fork, charged by law with protecting the health and safety of its citizens, hereby expresses opposition to the development of the Rock Creek Mine as currently proposed. The City Council continues to have grave concerns regarding the potential pollution of the Clark Fork River and Lake Pend Oreille by the proposed mine.

2. The City of Clark Fork further calls upon the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, Seattle, Washington, to become intimately knowledgeable of the Sterling Mining Company proposal and to scrutinize it for its effect upon the Clark Fork River and Lake Pend Oreille.
3. The City of Clark Fork asks that the tailings impoundment area be located as far as possible from the Clark Fork River.
4. The City of Clark Fork asks that there be no discharge directly into the Clark Fork River and that any and all discharge is monitored for quality and quantity.
5. The City of Clark Fork asks that the best technology available be applied to mitigate and prevent any pollution to the Clark Fork River.
6. That this Resolution shall be effective upon its passage and approval and shall be forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the City's legislative representatives and other agencies having jurisdiction in the permitting process.

  
Thomas A. Shields, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Elizabeth A. Parenti, City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Dawn Hughes	___	___	✓	___
Georgia Schenck	✓	___	___	___
Lynn Siple	✓	___	___	___
Marlene Syth	✓	___	___	___

PASSED AND APPROVED at a special council meeting 7/30/03.