

Carol Kennedy, Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 10 (ORC-158)  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101

September 8, 2007

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HEARINGS CLERK  
EPA -- REGION 10

Re: Rock Creek Mine along Mile 3 of Glacier Creek Road, Nome, Alaska 99762  
Permit No. AKR10BTOO

Dear Ms Kennedy,

I am writing to comment on the proposed fine of \$7,600.00 for the violation of the Clean Water Act occurring this Spring when Alaska Gold Company/Nova Gold (AGC/NG) neglected to build the diversion ditches to capture the snow melt here in Nome and keep their "no discharge" facility from polluting the wetlands below the mine site.

I am unsure how the fines are decided and have asked Ms Chun to please send information regarding this aspect of the proposed amount.

I find that AGC/NG were negligent in their handling of our environment. What's more is that the CEO of AGC, Doug Nicholson, blamed the concerned people of Nome who filed suit against the Army Corp of Engineering in an attempt to have an Environmental Impact Study done prior to construction of the site for the ditches not being built. This was especially foolhardy on his part as he could have made changes to the construction timeline and moved the building of the ditches up as a priority if the environment was what the company really wanted to protect. I believe that this was a purposeful act on the part of AGC/NG to make the Bering Strait Citizens for Responsible Resource Development look like they were at fault for the polluting of the precious wetlands. He has been quoted in the Nome Nugget, our local newspaper, as saying so.

This being the case, shouldn't the fine be increased from the pocket change above due to this premeditated thinking? It is not enough of a fine as far as I can tell.

I also wonder why it is, if the Environmental Protection Agency was created to protect habitat, the agency has no power to enforce best practice policies on companies like AGC/NG. I thought that the EPA had those powers in the past, what happened to them?

Please reconsider the amount proposed in light of Doug Nicholson's lack of action and what seems to be premeditation to harm our habitat.

Thank you,



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