



Takshanuk Watershed Council

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May 30, 2019

Haines Borough Mayor & Assembly
PO Box 1209
Haines, AK 99827

Dear Madam Mayor & Assembly Members,

A 2006 study of 183 large mines located throughout the United States found that 93% had negative impacts to ground and surface waters in excess of water quality limits. Furthermore, 89% of these mines had predicted in their pre-development environmental analyses that there would be *no impacts* to ground or surface waters.¹

Haines Borough ordinance 19-04-529 will prohibit the aqueous storage of hazardous materials within one mile of a surface body of water. This ordinance ensures the highest standard of material management is implemented within the Haines Borough, and it would significantly reduce the risk of accidental surface water contamination from all large-scale industrial activities, including mining.

TWC realizes that for this aqueous storage ordinance to function as intended, there will need to be definitions and terms applied to the draft language prior to final adoption. TWC would be happy to serve as a resource to the Assembly on this matter.

Sincerely,

Meredith Pochardt
Executive Director

¹Kuipers, J.R., Maest, A.S., MacHardy, K.A., and Lawson, G. 2006. Comparison of Predicted and Actual Water Quality at Hardrock Mines: The reliability of predictions in Environmental Impact Statements.