

## Alekka Fullerton

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**Subject:** FW: Public Comment re Lutak Dock

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**From:** Stacie Evans <stacie@takshanuk.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 8, 2023 3:19 PM  
**To:** Alekka Fullerton <afullerton@haines.ak.us>  
**Subject:** Public Comment re Lutak Dock

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Public Comment re Lutak Dock

December 8, 2023

Greetings Haines Borough Assembly;

I am commenting to urge Assembly members to request a stop work order be issued to Turnigan Marine Construction (Turnigan) until the following conditions are met:

I. Questions regarding the \$25.6 million contract between Turnigan and the Haines Borough are resolved.

Recent mishandling of FEMA funding reveals that more oversight is needed with federally funded infrastructure projects. At the very least, the Borough should consult MARAD directly about the legality of the contract between the Haines Borough and Turnigan before any more funds are spent.

II. Contaminant testing is conducted at the site.

Turnigan's plan involves encapsulating the current dock to avoid the need to excavate potentially contaminated material at the site. Unfortunately, while this sounds promising, this type of "encapsulation" does not ensure that contaminants are contained. Testing would let us know exactly what we're dealing with and empower us to make the best possible decision.

III. Appropriate alternatives to the current plan are researched.

It is false that community members who are concerned about the current plan would like to let the dock fall into the ocean. Instead, many would prefer to consider armoring the pass-pass where fuel and other objects are transferred, removing the rest of the dock, and installing mooring dolphins. This alternative was not considered in the draft Environmental Analysis (EA) posted briefly on the Borough website, and should be researched more thoroughly. If deemed appropriate, this could furnish the community with a dock that would be suitable for our needs and would not be costly to maintain.

IV. A public process is initiated regarding the EA.

IF the Haines Borough is to continue with the current plan proposed by Turnigan, the public needs the opportunity to weigh in via the EA. While it is technically possible to submit an EA without a public process, it would be very disingenuous to do so when the public has such a vested interest in the project. Furthermore, spending money before an EA is approved is like putting the cart before the horse.

V. A thorough (potentially third party) analysis of future maintenance and replacement costs is conducted.

The information provided so far does not convince many community members that this dock will pay for itself. The risk of higher shipping costs for residents, or tax payer subsidies to maintain the dock, should be taken seriously. It is also not clear how this massive project will be managed after the eventual end of its life. Will future generations need to deal with failure of an even larger dock someday? The Borough has the opportunity and funding to do the right thing now. Let's not kick it down the road for the community's children to deal with.

Thank you for considering the above recommendation and its conditions. According to MARAD, the project does not need to be defined until September of 2024, and funds do not need to be expended until 2029. This timeline allows the Haines Borough ample opportunity to ensure that the project goes forward in the best way possible. Please do not let this become another infrastructure project riddled with issues.

Thanks again for your time and consideration.

Best,

Stacie Evans