

From: [Joe Ordonez](#)
To: [Alekka Fullerton](#)
Subject: Letter
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 7:36:37 PM

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Hi Alekka,

I sent you a letter via Google docs but have also included it in the body of this email. Could you kindly add this to the Assembly's packet for the next meeting?

Thank you.

Joe

December 4th, 2023

Dear Haines Assembly members,

I read the CUP 23-87 appeal carefully and found many convincing arguments that the CUP was issued in error.

My company, Rainbow Glacier Adventures, offers photography and wildlife viewing tours to Chilkoot Lake. These tours utilize multiple vehicles and each tour passes the gravel pit area in question while going to and from Chilkoot Lake.

The number one concern on any Rainbow Glacier Adventures tour is safety. Our vehicles will pass this location hundreds of times next season. I am concerned that this extraction operation will expose my guests and guides to an increased risk of landslides.

I am not an engineer and will not comment in detail about the design of this project. But I do appreciate the questions and safety concerns brought by the appellates. So far, I do not feel that these concerns have been adequately addressed.

Another potential problem I foresee as a tour operator revolves around potential delays. We coordinate with the Haines/Skagway Fast Ferry to bring guests to and from Skagway. The Fast Ferry operates on a strict schedule. If we are late, our guests would miss the Fast Ferry back to Skagway and potentially miss their ship's departure to the next port of call. This would present an untenable situation.

An assurance from the applicant that our tours will not be delayed because of their operation would relieve quite a bit of stress. If delays are inevitable, it would best if the applicant provided us with a daily schedule which includes the timing and maximum duration of any delays. Without this information, we will have to shorten our guests' time at Chilkoot Lake **just in case** there is a delay at the gravel pit on the way back to town. The combination of delays and uncertainty would result in less time at Chilkoot Lake, more stress for the guests and guides, and would increase the odds of us receiving negative tour reviews. Negative tour reviews can result in a loss of business.

Along the Haines Highway, we've experienced lengthy construction delays the last several years. Before the Haines Highway project began, we were contacted by the construction contractors. Together, we looked at the work flow they required and the maximum length of delay that we could accept and still meet the Fast Ferry. We worked together to minimize impacts on our businesses.

This is a good example of how a contractor can proactively reach out to those affected to reduce friction. To date, no one has reached out to discuss how the Lutak gravel pit might affect our tours. Nor has anyone reached out to discuss how any potential negative impacts might be minimized.

Proposing a significant extraction activity that carries with it the potential to trigger a landslide is a serious matter. **Operating** a significant extraction project that carries with it the potential to trigger a landslide **before obtaining the required permit** is a more serious matter.

Because this is a serious matter, the costs, benefits and risks should be weighed carefully.

As a first step, I urge the Assembly to direct the applicant to halt all operations and produce well-researched, data-driven reports that address the concerns laid out in this appeal. As a second step, the information provided should be analyzed by the Assembly and Borough staff and discussed with the public. Once this is accomplished, the Assembly will be in a better position to decide whether this CUP should be denied or approved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joe Ordóñez
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