

**From:** [Siri Beckman](#)  
**To:** [DEP, MiningComments2016](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed mining rules  
**Date:** Friday, September 09, 2016 2:49:02 PM

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To the Board of Environmental Protection,

I write to caution the Board about adopting inadequate rules for the mining industry. While some improvements have been made, the rules are still not strong enough and, if approved, would put Maine's water and aquatic resources at risk.

The rules would allow mining on and under Maine's Public Reserved Lands. These special and magnificent lands should be RESERVED, just as the name implies, for the public, and they should be off limits to mining companies.

The rules would allow tailings impoundments, the most dangerous type of mine waste disposal facility. Anyone who has traveled in the west or southwest of the US is familiar with the environmental degradation caused by mining and its waste. The type of mining proposed for Maine has never been operated successfully without polluting nearby waters.

And who pays for the clean up? The rules still leave Maine taxpayers on the hook for mining disasters. Maine should not allow any company to mine that isn't willing to pay up front for the cost of a potential disaster. We have a couple of examples here in Hancock county (Callahan mine in Brooksville) where the mining company's mess is still being cleaned up.

There are some areas which just are not suitable for waste— surely flood plains and flood hazard zones are two, yet the rules do not protect these areas from waste rock piles and tailings ponds.

Please, we can do better to protect our environment from the hazards of mining.

Sincerely,

Siri Beckman

P.O. Box 503

Stonington, ME 04681