

From: [Robert Dorsey](#)
To: [DEP, MiningComments2016](#)
Cc: [Cal Deschene](#); [Carl Flora](#); [Cheri Doak](#); [Chris Anderson](#); [Danielle Thibeault](#); [Dave Desjardins](#); [Debbie Roark](#); [Gina LeBlanc - Eggert](#); [Jason House](#); [Jason Parent](#); [Jennefer Flynn](#); [Jennifer Curran](#); [John Short](#); [Jon McLaughlin](#); [Jon Prescott](#); [Joy Barresi Saucier](#); [Kris Doody](#); [Larry Shaw](#); [Mark Wilcox](#); [Matt McHatten](#); [Ray Rice](#); [Robert Clark](#); [Ryan Bushey](#); [Scott Voisine](#); [Sue Bernard](#); [Tim Crowley](#); [Timothy Doak - Supt. RSU 39](#)
Subject: Aroostook Partnership Inputs to Proposed Chapter 200 Mining Exploration New Rule
Date: Thursday, September 08, 2016 2:32:39 PM

Mr. Crawford,

The Aroostook Partnership is a unique Private/Public organization made up of ~100 businesses, the four colleges in Aroostook County and the Northern Maine Development Commission teamed together to advance economic development, promote business and grow jobs in our County. We have been an advocate for new mining rules and testified in support since this issue emerged a few years back.

Regarding the proposed new rule to allow for minor exploration without a permit but with a work plan and requiring a permit for advanced exploration, **the Partnership fully supports this prudent approach.**

Clearly, any mining activity must start with a suitable exploration phase to ensure sufficient resources exist to justify further investment. In Aroostook County, the potential area suitable for potential mining has had previous exploration completed but that was decades ago and updated exploration is justified. The Bald Mountain region is owned by JD Irving and they have a modern prudent approach for exploration. They also have the resources necessary to fund the most advanced technology to conduct exploration or mining should that develop and have a long term interest in maintaining that area as they are and will be heavily involved w/ harvesting timber for decades to come.

The potential for mining is one of the most significant economic development opportunities in Aroostook County. Estimates are the ~\$1B investment could bring up to 300 new jobs to our region, bring 10 to 20 new firms here to support those operations, provide ~\$45M increase per year in County economic activity and provide \$Ms in taxes to Maine. Many of us who are conservationists view this as a way to balance economic development with protecting our valuable natural resources. To the naysayers that point to arsenic levels, the facts are that the waters in this region are laced with arsenic as is natural to waters near mineral deposits. Modern mining can use advanced water treatment systems that essentially leaves distilled water as a byproduct of the effort and should mining activities materialize, Irving plans to spend over \$100M to develop the best water treatment available. In our neighboring province of New Brunswick, they have successfully mined, closed mines safely and won many national safety awards using modern technologies.

The bottom line is that the Partnership fully supports and encourages the State to update the state's 1990 mining rules and utilize rules such as this to allow for prudent exploration!

Thank you for ensuring that our input is submitted to the DEP and hearing personnel.

Respectfully,
Bob Dorsey

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