

To: Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office

From: Darla Theisen

Date: 1/6/2021

Re: Avian Gold lease application MHT 94000743

1. Part A-in the notice only sections 11 and 12 (FM 0036 and FM0037) are cited but in decision doc Sec 13 is added (FM-0047). This is also what was in the paper- only Sections 11 and 12- section 13 was excluded.
2. Part C-The site is NOT mostly alpine boreal shrubbery. It is mostly hardwoods, birch and aspen boreal forest.
3. Part E-states that adjacent land use trends are almost exclusively mineral exploration and development and public recreation. What about all the homes, subdivisions and families that live adjacent to these parcels? What about the Audubon Riedel Nature Reserve that is adjacent to the property?
4. Part D-the parcels have no known historical or existing uses beyond minimal recreational use as evidenced by existing trails on satellite imagery. A site visit would be better to glean the correct info vs sat imagery. There are people that live all around the area and there is heavy recreational and subsistence use, not only by the local residents but many other folks come for motorized and non motorized use, hunting, trapping, berry picking, dog mushing and winter sports. The Nature Reserve is adjacent to the parcel 0047 where scientific research is planned and educational opportunities.
5. Part H-states the highest and best use is anticipated to be mineral exploration and development-consistent with adjacent Trust lands at Fort Knox???? What about all the people that live here that have the adjacent lands? They are much closer than Fort Knox.
6. Fort Knox is referenced in Parts E and H. Why aren't the living communities referenced?
7. Access- what access is planned to these parcels? We all provide for our own road service for Amanita and it is not constructed for mining use. Why does Avidian expound in their reports what great access there is?
8. FNSB-yes the land estate is owned by FNSB and there is also a Mineral Closing Order on Section 13. How can someone be granted a lease to explore or develop on land that is closed to mineral leasing? Reference SOA patent # 5308.
9. Alternatives A- do nothing- you reference as not preferred due to high price of gold and existence of Fort Knox. Look at the geological reports for this area from earlier. It was not deemed worth it. Fort Knox relinquished exploring it before Avidian arrived. Instead of gold prices and Fort Knox please look at the communities that live there- in and around.
10. Environmental risks- what are the three phases? How can you mine gold with minimal impact. They are talking about mining 500,000- 1 million ounces of gold in 2022/23 from the Amanita project and trucking it to Fort Knox. The mode of operandi of mining companies adjacent to residential has been destroying the aquifer, paying for it until they mine all they want out and then leave and fold the company. This will affect so many lives and certainly should not be in MHT's best interest.
11. Public concerns-states that Avidian has a robust history of conducting work at the adjacent Amanita Project- what? There was a lot of public comment and concern to deny Avidian on the Amanita Project last year. There is nothing robust about the Canadian company in Amanita. They have never even met with us
12. We would like to review all the background documents and information. We live in Fairbanks, the project is in our neighborhood yet all the files are in Anchorage. Can you please scan and send any other documents for our review (received their incomplete app and narrative and map showing MCO). If there is anything else please send- AKDNR paperwork?