

Amanita Heights Homeowners Association
1977 Milky Way (off Amanita)
Fairbanks, AK

To: Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office

January 25, 2021

These comments are offered in response to the public notice of the Decision to Issue a Negotiated Mineral Lease-Amanita Project-Fairbanks MHT #9400743 located in Sections 11, 12, and 13 T1N R1E, Fairbanks Meridian containing approximately 680 acres.

These comments represent the consensus of the Amanita Heights Homeowners' Association. We are concerned about impacts from exploration and operation on the proposed negotiated mineral lease which is proposed upstream and adjacent to Amanita Heights.

The decision as written had many flaws in it and was never corrected or updated, especially in Parts D, E, and H. Of special note is the continual reference to mining and Fort Knox as being the main land use trend and highest and best use. There is no acknowledgement as to all the residents living here, the surrounding subdivisions and the Audubon Riedel Nature Reserve.

There was no communication to us about what was proposed except for the decision that appeared in the paper.

There is no mention of access and yet Avidian states in their presentation that they plan to mine 500,000-1 million ounces of gold out of Amanita and truck it to Fort Knox in 2022/2023.

Our Amanita Rd runs through Section 13. We provide our own road service for Amanita and it is not constructed for mining use.

There is a Mineral closing order in parts of Sections 11, 12, 13 and 1. How can someone be granted a lease to explore or develop on land that is closed to mineral leasing?

Our concerns include the effect on the water table and aquifer [from water withdrawals of surface and or ground water, changes in topography and alterations of natural water flows in the watershed] effects of surface runoff on downslope lands, the effects of noise, from equipment, operations, helicopters and blasting to people, birds, and other animal and fish and] effects from possible access routes.

Mining traditionally is a large user of water, especially in the extractive stage, and this could draw down the water table/aquifer throughout the area causing surface seeps and wetland areas to dry out. This would make noticeable changes to our area.

Surface runoff could bring pollution from exploration and mining activities to our lands. These could range from equipment failure resulting in spills of gas and oil to leaching from waste piles or from extraction ponds.

Noise from mining operations would be in our "backyard".

If there are any future proposals for our surrounding lands please have a meeting with us to discuss this and keep us informed of any such operation.

Thank you.

Darla Theisen, President