

Esro Road Association
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January 21, 2021

Trust Land Office
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
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Trust Land Office,

The Esro Road Association is charged with road maintenance with contributions by our neighbors.

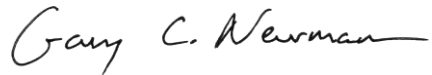
Regarding MHT # 9400743, the Esro Road Association has serious concerns over the proposal to perform exploratory mining in hopes of further commercial mining extraction in our neighborhood. We rebut the **Best Interest Findings** as being deficient and faulty. We alert the Trust Land Office and the Mental Health Trust Authority as well that there are additional concerns with this decision made without consultation with directly affected neighbors until this near fait accompli.

1. Foremost concern for the Esro Road Association is that much of the area is laden with melting permafrost and ice lenses. Phase 3 of Avidian Gold Alaska's proposal is core drilling. Even some surface grading has exposed artesian wells that have flooded our road. There is no reasonable mitigation that will address those conditions. Any disturbance will flow into either Ruby Creek or Glacier Creek (adjacent to Doe Ray Road, which Esro Road crosses. This is a big omission in **VIII.B. Environmental Risks** which assert de minimus environmental impacts. This is rather surprising as **IX. Due Diligence** indicates TLO staff admit they have not performed any inspections of the proposed lease area, only of the Amanita Project.
2. The proposal submitted by Avidian states that Esro Road is potential access. Despite the assurance of TLO that Avidian is *a well establish mineral exploration company with adjacent properties and an ongoing significant exploration project on State lands. The relatively small size of the parcels to lease and their location surrounding the applicant's existing mineral lease does not warrant conducting a competitive offering due to diminished interest*, they have apparently failed to note that Esro Road is a Private Road serving primarily a residential area. We have not heard from them at all.
3. This proposal is directly adjacent to long established residential area. Recreation uses on adjacent land are well established. The Audubon Riedel Nature Reserve is also adjacent. **TLO Best Interest Decision III. Subject Property D. and E.** statements are woefully inadequate. The Adjacent Land Use Trends are clearly residential and outdoor recreation.

4. While Ft. Knox may be nearby, it is over the hill and part of a different drainage than the Avidian proposed lease. The statement that **H. Apparent Highest and Best Use** as mineral exploration and development is counter to directly adjacent residential areas. It strikingly indicates the opposite of **IX. Due Diligence**.
5. The valley in which work is proposed is pretty reverberant and the high noise levels that exploratory and production mining will inevitably disturb the entire valley, not just along Esro Road, but Tungsten Subdivision across the valley. This may very well violate FNSB noise ordinances and certainly the quiet enjoyment of residents' homes, a central tenant of land use planning. There is no functional mitigation we know of for this.

It does seem ironic that the Mental Health Trust Authority would be proposing such a lease in a residential area that would disturb the mental health of neighbors.

In conclusion, the **Best Interest Decision should be Alternative A. Do Nothing.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary C. Newman".

Gary C. Newman, President