

Dear persons at Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority,

My name is Thomas Duncan. I am writing you to address Notice under 11 AAC 99.050 of Decision to Issue a Negotiated Mineral Lease – Amanita Project – Fairbanks MHT #9400743

I live at 2035 Boreal Hts and have since 2008. I live in Section 18 just east and adjacent to the proposed exploration. During my time living here I have seen many other homes built. People living here value the quality of life in this quiet area. But ALL people typically value quality of life anywhere their home is, which typically does not involve being adjacent and in close proximity to disturbances like mining exploration.

This brings me to my first point.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - This looks very bad for the MHT.

The MHT consideration for mining “exploration” inherently directs to the consideration for actual mining.

We are all shocked that the MHT thinks it is acceptable or appropriate to consider exploration for potential mining in such close proximity to people’s homes. There are many residents living very near the location indicated on the map. This location is not remote by any means. Any type of activity on this scale, even exploratory, will have an effect on the health (both MENTAL and physical) and quality of life of the local residents.

Maybe in the early 20th century mining in this location would be acceptable, but inevitably Fairbanks is expanding, and this particular location is NOT remote nor without residents. People live here.

Here is just a small list of things that are NOT just mere inconveniences from the proposed activity:

- THREAT to QUALITY OF LIFE
 - o I would like to mention again; we live in very close proximity to this proposed activity.
 - o All local residents here value the quality of life we have in this particular location. Everyone that is here moved here because of the calm and peace and quiet. Now the MENTAL Health Trust is threatening to remove that quality of life with this new proposed activity.

- NOISE – All of the below are disturbances that prevent proper REST and QUALITY of LIFE at homes.
 - o machinery makes noise. I am no stranger to equipment and I know very well the ratcheting metal sounds that heavy equipment makes.
 - o Reverse direction alarms on equipment. When equipment and commercial truck are backing up usually a reverse alarm is mandatory. This constant BEEPING will be more than an annoyance
 - o Engine Noise – heavy equipment requires big engines and again the constant hum will be more than an annoyance.
 - o Ground vibration - heavy equipment vibrates the ground
 - o All of the above are disturbances that prevent proper rest at homes.

- POTENTIAL INCREASED ROAD use
 - o Not only will this new activity have an effect on the people in close proximity to the activity, but all residents along the entire Amanita road will be effected. The entire length of Amanita serves a residential area and hence it is intended for residential use.
 - o Our entire Amanita Road is narrow in many location and is already too busy. Equipment traffic will make things dangerous for residents using our local road, and at the very least be a huge inconvenience anytime a piece of equipment or truck traffic is present as people will need to pull off the road for passerby's
 - o Our local road should not be used for commercial reasons. Construction and maintenance has been paid for out-of-pocket by local residents for many years. A lot of money has gone in to building it and maintaining it. Added vehicle and equipment traffic WILL have a dire effect on the quality and endurance of the road.
 - o Our local road goes over private property in many locations. The road does not follow the correct easement in many areas and those that have the road over their property lines currently look the other way. Im sure these people will have a different attitude once they find out the road is being considered for commercial use.
 - o Safety – there are many children and bicyclist that use this road. We as residents do not need this added stress of worrying about one of our children jumping out in front of a truck whose driver could not see them on a winding road.

- PROPERTY VALUE
 - o This development will certainly not enhance my property value.
 - o Currently we live in a quiet community
 - o Buzzing loud equipment, new holes in the ground around us or subsurface mining will certainly not add to my property value.

- HEALTH CONCERNS

- Well water – I and others around me have a water well on our properties. I monitor my well water for its quality to assure my good health. You can be assured that I will continue to monitor the well water in the next coming years. If this proposed activity goes through and my quality of water degrades I will be investigating any connection to the proposed activity and possibly seek legal action – or at least making a public statement.
- Mental health – there are many things stated above that will be a big disturbance and will create stress in our lives if this exploration plan and potential future mining should occur.

By the MHT principles the decision to peruse mining exploration in these areas is not in the best interest of the MHT, the trust or its beneficiaries. The cited section **11 AAC 99.020 (c)** states that the executive director shall use the following management principle:

(5) management of trust land prudently, efficiently, and with accountability to the trust and its beneficiaries

- Prudent – “acting with or showing care and thought for the future”.
- Accountability – “required or expected to justify actions or decisions; responsible”

If mining exploration proceeds and hence successive mining follows there will be repercussions and harm brought upon the local residence of this area as stated previously. Those actions are neither Prudent nor Responsible. Upon reviewing the MHT website it appears the overlying principle or purpose is to “improve the lives of beneficiaries”. Upon reviewing whom the “beneficiaries” are defined as, going through with this proposed mining exploration looks to be in clear conflict with this guiding principle – helping people with their lives.

Finally,

We come to our homes for rest. This rest is not a luxury but a necessity. Lack of disturbances is a right. This exploration and future potential mining will obviously be a disturbance.

So I ask you, please reconsider your plans and do not allow exploration in the areas of FM-0036, FM-0037, FM-0047

Best regards,



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