

MONTANA PUBLIC COMMENT FACT SHEET

*Proposed Open-Pit Coal Mine in the North Fork Flathead River
Cline Mining Corporation, British Columbia*

The Cline Mining Corporation is proposing to put **an open-pit coal mine in the headwaters of the Flathead River of British Columbia**. The Flathead River is an international watershed, originating in British Columbia and flowing south into Montana where it forms the western boundary of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Cline proposes to remove 2 million tons of coal per year for over twenty years. This is a mountain-top removal coal mine with waste dumps, settling ponds and the actual pit sitting in the headwaters of the Flathead River. The mine is currently in the Environmental Assessment process. **British Columbia is taking public comment on the proposal until February 1st, 2007.**

What to include in your public comments:

- Some places are just NOT appropriate to mine, and the Flathead River is one of them.
- The impacts of the proposed mine cannot be mitigated due to the location of the mine at the headwaters of a transboundary river, and the size of the proposed mine.
- Impacts of the proposed mine will extend downriver to the entire Flathead Basin, including Montana, Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park and the Clark Fork River.
- Contaminated water from the mine would be in Flathead Lake within 48 hours of discharge from the mine.
- The proposed mine threatens migratory westslope cutthroat and bull trout populations, which migrate from Flathead Lake in Montana to the headwaters of the Flathead River in B.C.
- The proposed mine threatens grizzly bear and other carnivore populations that are shared between British Columbia, Alberta and Montana
- Insist that Cline conduct a thorough, basin-scale environmental impact assessment that includes a minimum of 3-5 years of baseline data collection including the Montana portion of the basin.
- B.C. does not currently have sufficient information to accurately determine the impacts of the mine on fish, wildlife and the entire Flathead Basin.

Please refer to the Flathead Basin Commission website for detailed information regarding the proposed open-pit coal mine, the State of Montana's comments, and how to submit your own comments at www.flatheadbasincommission.org

Comments can be emailed to eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca. Please also copy your comments to Governor Brian Schweitzer (governor@mt.gov) and Premier Gordon Campbell (premier@gov.bc.ca).

The Flathead Basin Commission will track comments submitted by US stakeholders, so please send a copy of your comments to fbcc@mt.gov or fax them to 406-752-2843.

What you can do to help:

- Attend one of the public meetings, and submit written and/or oral testimony. If you cannot attend the meetings, written testimony can still be submitted to the above address.

The Flathead Basin Commission is sponsoring public meetings to facilitate citizen comment on the proposed open pit coal mine. Meetings will be held as follows:

January 15th - Red Lion Hotel in Kalispell from 9-12 am and 7-9 pm

January 24th – Doubletree Inn in Missoula from 7-10 pm

Public meetings sponsored by Cline will be held in British Columbia as follows:

January 16th - Elko Community Hall, Elko, BC

January 17th - Sparwood Recreation Centre, 367 Pine Ave., Sparwood, BC

January 18th - Best Western Hotel, 1622-7th Ave., Fernie, BC

For the meetings in British Columbia, open houses will be held from 3-7 pm, and public meetings will be held from 7-9 pm.

- Support the efforts of the Flathead Basin Commission (FBC) in the 2007 legislative session to ensure that the legislature sets aside adequate funding for critically needed baseline monitoring in the Flathead Basin by contacting your legislators and testifying at legislative hearings in support of the pending FBC bill.

Please refer to www.flatheadbasincommission.org for detailed and up-to-date information regarding the status of FBC's legislative efforts and how you can help.