

March 28th, 2006

Dear Commission,

I am writing in protest of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's recent issuing of a permit to AngloGold Ashanti's Big Springs Mine for illegal discharge into the North Fork Humboldt River and its tributaries. The issuance of this permit is untenable on several fronts. First is the fact that the NF Humboldt supports many species of concern, including the spotted frog and the federally listed and protected Lahontan cutthroat trout. Pollution of this river is likely to have detrimental impacts on these species, several of which are protected by law. Secondly, the failure to protect this river from ongoing polluted discharge is a violation of both the federal Clean Water Act and the state of Nevada's Water Pollution Controls Law. Third, the apparent effort to gag the public from appealing or commenting on this permit is an outright violation of the rights of the citizens of Nevada that makes one question the allegiance of the so-called "environmental protection" division Nevada tax payers employ and trust to protect the natural resources and environment of their unique and fragile state.

I urge you not only to forbid the future discharge of pollution from the Big Spring's mine but also to force the cleanup of this site by AngloGold. Anything less is a tremendous disservice to both the environment and the citizens of this state.

Sincerely,

Helen Neville, Ph.D.
Reno, NV

Tom Skiles
1618 Plumas St
Reno, NV 89509

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Attn: John Walker
State Environmental Commission
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001
Carson City, NV 89701-5249

PUBLIC COMMENT

As an angler, a fisheries biologist, and a student in the Hydrologic Science Graduate Program at the University of Nevada, Reno, I would like to express my discontent. I have recently learned that the AngloGold Ashanti's Big Springs mine is illegally discharging polluted water into the north fork of the Humboldt River. One of the contaminants being discharged is of particular concern to me, selenium. Selenium is a bioaccumulating element, much like arsenic and mercury, which poses a toxic threat to wildlife and human life, alike.

Selenium concentrations in the river will pose a health risk to one of our state most valuable resources, Lahontan Cutthroat trout (LCT). In addition to being a bioaccumulant, selenium will biomagnify in the trophic order. As a result, selenium concentrations will likely be greater in the tissues of LCTs than in other species of fishes and invertebrates, which LCTs prey upon.

For these reasons, I implore you to take action. Stop the illegal discharge of contaminants into the north fork of the Humboldt River.

Sincerely,

Tom D. Skiles

I have been watching the progress on this issue with great interest. Seems the Mining companies lovely TV ads that are running are in fact contrary to what they are actually doing. I am in support of the clean up in the North Fork Humboldt River. It is inexcusable to pollute Nevada's water and wildlife by obvious negligent business practices.

Please make these comments a matter of public record.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Harkreader
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