

RESOLUTION 23-03

**A RESOLUTION FROM THE NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL EXPRESSING
OPPOSITION TO THE SOLE ORE TRUCKING PROPOSAL FOR THE MANH CHOH
MINE PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the City of North Pole supports the plans to develop Kinross Gold/Contango ORE from the Manh Choh Mine Project near Tetlin, Alaska, which will continue the long tradition of gold mining in Interior Alaska.

WHEREAS, the ore trucking proposal, up to 192 times every day, double-trailer ore hauling trucks, 95 foot long and weighing up to 80 tons, would make the 240 mile trip from Tetlin to Cleary Summit and then make the return trip; and

WHEREAS, many Interior Alaska residents use that part Richardson Highway daily to commute to and from work, for shopping, medical appointments, transporting students to from schools in private vehicles and school buses, including law enforcement, emergency vehicles such as ambulances and fire equipment; and

WHEREAS, military personnel living off-base must be able to report to work within a specific time period limiting the location of where they can live or rent housing and this increased traffic by so many daily ore hauling trucks may impact where and if they can live off base with their families; and

WHEREAS, the addition of these double trailers, driven in all Alaskan weather conditions, will accelerate wear and tear on Alaska highways, especially the Richardson Highway and will create unsafe driving conditions; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the North Pole City Council to see this project successfully move forward; and

WHEREAS, the current transportation plan has created much research and concern in our community about impacts upon roads, traffic, safety, and other issues other considerations require thorough examination, such as the 110+ school bus stops along the proposed route; and

WHEREAS, the North Pole City Council recognizes that it does not have legal jurisdiction in this matter and can only act in an advisory capacity and what it considers to be in the best interests of its residents; and

WHEREAS, recently the EPA Region 10 in the Federal Docket Register ID No. EPA-R10-OAR-2022-0115 gave the Fairbanks PM2.5 Serious Non-attainment Area State implementation Plan partial approval and partial disapproval 2006 24-Hour PM2.5 Serious Area and 189(d) Plan Fairbanks North Star Borough; and

WHEREAS, the traffic generated by this project may impact the air quality and possible mitigation measures in the FNSB PM2.5 non-attainment area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the North Pole City Council that the City opposes the sole proposal to truck ore from the Manh Choh mine through the City of

- 1 North Pole and to the processing plant at Fort Knox mine project but hopes that
 2 legitimate alternatives can be found to the problematic current ore hauling plan that
 3 might include the following:
- 4 1. Working with the Alaska Railroad Corporation, the U.S. Department of Defense
 5 and the State of Alaska to work on a long-range plan to extend the rail line to at
 6 least Delta Junction, if not further.
 - 7 2. Revisiting the investment in a mill that could be used by not only this project
 8 but also by other organizations with holdings in eastern Alaska, making it more
 9 fiscally feasible. The State of Alaska alone has 170,000 acres of very promising
 10 lands adjacent to the 675,000 acres of Tetlin lease lands. Having this
 11 infrastructure in place could greatly aid in developing the economy in the
 12 Interior.
 - 13 3. Adjusting the ore hauling to schedule to avoid peak commute and student
 14 transportation periods of time, adjusting the ore hauling schedule to include a
 15 mandated nighttime quiet period and adjusting the ore hauling schedule to
 16 meet the EPA 70 dBA maximum daily average.
 - 17 4. Work with AIDEA to construct a road connecting from Eagle to the Steese
 18 Highway similar to other mining road projects such as Red Dog and Ambler.
 - 19 5. To extend construction of the twin ore haul road for all the Alaska, Richardson
 20 and Steese highways.
 - 21 6. Any other methodologies that may prove feasible and safer for the public.

22 **Section 1.** Effective date.

23 This resolution shall become effective immediately upon City Council approval.

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25 **PASSED** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council this 6th day of
26 February 2023.



Michael A. Welch
Mayor, City of North Pole, Alaska

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32 ATTEST:

33 *Melissa A. Dionne*
34 _____
35 Melissa A. Dionne, North Pole City
36 Clerk

PASSED/FAILED	
Yes:	7
No:	0
Absent:	0