FORTUNE MINERALS:

Industrial Dream or

Toxic Time-bomb?

Fortune Minerals, based in London, Ontario, is trying to get approval for a mine in the NWT and a metal processing plant near Langham. The ore would be moved by rail from near Yellowknife to a site on the CN line at Shultz Road.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

WATER SUPPLY To extract metals from the ore, the plant would use chemicals, electricity and water — 264,000 gallons per day, approximately the entire amount needed by all current users of the aquifer. 60% of this water would become heavily contaminated then permanently lost when pumped 1800 feet underground for disposal in the Mannville formation.

CLEAN WATER The planned site is on the Dalmeny fresh water aquifer, the drinking water source for Langham and surrounding farms and acreages. The waste water produced will contain high concentrations of chemicals such as sodium, chlorine, sulphur, arsenic, lead, manganese and cadmium. This toxic and highly corrosive solution will be pumped at 110 gallons per minute via injection wells that pass through the Dalmeny aquifer into the deep underground formation. If an injection well malfunctions, our drinking water supply will be forever contaminated. There is no way to clean up a polluted aquifer.

DANGEROUS MATERIALS The finely crushed ore that would be shipped from NWT contains high arsenic levels. Processing chemicals, including cyanide, hydrofluoric acid and xanthate, will pass through our communities via rail and road. As much as 80 tonnes of cyanide per year would be used. Less than a gram of cyanide can kill a person. Hydrofluoric acid is so corrosive it will dissolve glass. Xanthate is toxic to aquatic life at low concentrations. Arsenic is a known carcinogen.

TOXIC POLLUTION Millions of gallons of toxic, caustic and acidic liquid waste would be stored in 5 “ponds” on the site. Solid wastes including gypsum, scorodite (an arsenic compound), sulfates, heavy metals, and Actinolite (a type of asbestos) would be put into 8 cells covering about 150 acres. Wind would blow toxic dust from the opened waste cells for the life of the plant. Sulfur-containing compounds combine with air and water to form sulfuric acid, causing “acid mine drainage”, an environmentally destructive process that accelerates contamination and leaching.

UNDISCLOSED PLANS? 65,000 tonnes of ore concentrate would be shipped from the NWT mine per year, yet the company is asking for permission to store 160,000 tonnes of solid waste per year. It may process material from other sources. From where? What are the risks?

LIABILITY ISSUES If there is a legal action by a person or company that suffers losses due to water pollution or health problems caused by the processing plant, where will the liability fall? If the RM approves the zoning, would ratepayers be on the hook for millions of dollars? The company will leave in 18 years when the ore is used up, leaving the abandoned site to future generations.

OWNERSHIP UNCERTAINTY As a “junior mining company”, Fortune Minerals’ goal is to sell the enterprise to a larger, possibly foreign-owned, mining company. If it can get all the necessary approvals Fortune Minerals will be in a position to sell the NICO/Langham project to the highest bidder. What would the ramifications be for our community and the environment? World-wide, large mining companies have a very reputation for environmental, health, safety and worker protection.

WHERE DO YOU STAND? Make sure your voice is heard.

In Canadian law, silence is understood to be consent.

MAKE SURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD!

Let your elected representatives know your views:

RM of Corman Park
Reeve Judy Hanwood
RM of Corman Park
111 Pinehouse Dr, Saskatoon, SK S7K 5W1
rm344@rmcormanpark.ca

Town of Langham
Mayor Bev Panas and Council
Box 289, Langham, SK, S0K 2L0
Ph: 306.283.4842
Fx: 306.283.4772

Town of Dalmeny
Mayor Allan Earle and Council
Box 400, Dalmeny, S0K 1E0
Ph: 306.254.2133
Fx: 306.254.2142
dalmenytownoffice@sasktel.net

Randy Weekes, MLA
Box 1413, Biggar, SK, S0K 0M0
Ph: 306.948.4880 or 306.798.9014
Fx: 306.948.4882 or 306.798.9013
rweekes@mla.legassembly.sk.ca

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff,
Environment Minister
Room 315, Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive, Regina, SK S4S0B3
Ph: 306.787.0393 or 306.651.7100
Fx: 306.787.1669
kcheveldayoff@mla.legassembly.sk.ca

(Note: Request that your letter be included in all councilor’s correspondence)

Here is what some of your neighbors are saying...

“The Fortune Minerals project is a liability to me as there will be the effects of the dust, noise, light and toxic chemicals on my family and on my fruit orchard. Food processing and a mine/mineral processing plant do not balance in harmony.” - Rodney Parenteau, owner of Parenteau’s Gourmet Foods, SW 13 39 7 W3, Corman Park

“I’m very concerned that Fortune Minerals could possibly contaminate the Dalmeny Aquifer where I get my household and drinking water. What is my home in Langham worth if it has no water? My farm is next door to the proposed site and I’m worried about the nasty chemicals that will be used that could contaminate the land and the air where I grow food. In my opinion, the risks are too great and Fortune Minerals should not be allowed to set up shop.”

- Steven Derksen

“The fresh water aquifer is so important and valuable to the people of Langham and surrounding area. We depend on it for our living to sustain our livestock and our way of life. The fresh water that we all take for granted is a gift of nature, and water is the life-blood of this planet, so we better make sure we protect it.”

- Harv Verishine, land owner and rancher

Thank you for taking time to read this informational sheet, presented to you by concerned citizens of your community. – March 2013

Contact us: pcrush@sasktel.net
Ken Crush 306.283.4203
http://fortunemineralsconcern.wordpress.com

Recent developments

- In December 2012 Fortune Minerals finalized the 480 acre land purchase at Shultz’s Road.
- Fortune Minerals hired Deloitte & Touche to search for potential financial partners in Asia.
- The Northwest Territories environmental review board has recommended the NICO mine proceed without first having a formal environment assessment, though the local Tlicho First Nation and the NWT Government have not yet given their approval.
- The Langham Metals Processing Facility is under review by Saskatchewan’s Environmental Assessment process. Once Fortune Minerals has submitted its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) there will be a public review of the EIS. This will be an opportunity for local people to comment on the project.
- Fortune Minerals would require a zoning change to be passed by our RM to allow it to build in Corman Park.