

Mark Thompson
Proponent
3/23/11

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 3/23/11
SB 306

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House Hearing March 23, 2011

- Introduction – Name, Rank and Serial Number
- Ambiguities in I-137 first came to my attention when discussing McLaren Tailings project in Cooke City
 - The issue of whether or not historic “ore stockpiles” originated from open pits or underground mines was never raised to me before
 - Permitted to receive “tailings” without mention of origin
 - Have processed “ores” from surface sources; “dog-holes”, previously with DEQ approval
- Not the first clarification needed from the legislature for I-137; after passing the legislature clarify the standing of existing CN process facilities
- The voters choice on I-137 was not clear
 - Voters did not ban the use of CN in the State
 - Did not ban the proliferation of CN facilities in the State
- The voter’s choice is not clear – 73% of Montana’s want State government to promote mining.
- Reiterate – 306 does not proliferate the use of CN in MT, allow new facilities to be constructed or allow expansion of heap leach facilities
 - Could result in the extension of mine for some facilities

- There have been allegations made that by extending mine lives, 306 would increase the risks of incidental spills and leaks
 - In 1998 GSM installed a CN destruction circuit that destroys 99.9% of the CN before any process solutions leave the contained mill area – eliminate the potential for significant spills or leaks
 - CN Code certification - a demonstration, audited by an independent third party, that a facility manages its use of CN to the highest known standards – code evolves with time
- I have seen a document being circulated detailing every incident that has occurred at GSM
 - The list of incidents stops in 1998 – ironically the same year that the CN destruction process was implemented
 - What if someone compiled a list of everything that went wrong in your life and said nothing about what you had done right – my list would be heavy for my teenage and early adult years with fewer items as I matured and learned - evolved

- There is much rhetoric around CN that we could sit here all afternoon and debate
 - Could talk about:

- The fact that the WTP at Zortman and Landusky and Beal Mountain do not even treat for CN
- ~~Cattle water in the process ponds at the Majesty Mine~~
- That not a single water body, out of hundreds, in MT is listed as impaired because of CN – admit many are impacted by mining activities – mostly historical activities – but none listed because of CN
- Zortman – permitted over 30-years ago- lets drop it
 - Computers
 - Rockets

- Let's talk about the real issue here - ~~the value of I-137 has been lifted~~ – supporters of I-137 intended that initiative to discourage mining in MT – it had little to do with CN, CN was just convenient fear tactic.
 - I-137 shut the door on future mining in MT – MT considered third world
 - SB-306 cracks the door open – a position supported by 73% of Montanans
- SB-306 is being tracked internationally in investment markets – how many other bills in this session are?
- Future for our children and grandchildren.