



The total volume of tailings to be removed from the A.J. Mine, formed into blocks the size of the federal building and set side by side, would create a wall 26 miles long.

Why are we feeling crabby about the A-J Mine?

Just for the Halibut.

And the salmon ... sole ... crab ... shrimp ... flounder ... herring ... pollock ... shellfish ... humpback whales ... orcas ... sea lions, and more than 200 other species of marine life.

Here's why: A proposed new rule drafted specifically for the A-J mine by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would reverse a long-standing ban on ocean dumping of mine wastes called tailings. Tailings are finely crushed rock that is discarded after mining. Often they contain toxic heavy metals and processing chemicals.

The rule change would:

◆ allow the A-J mine to dump 80-100 million tons of tailings into the marine waters of Taku Inlet and Stephens Passage near the south end of Gastineau Channel (80 million tons is enough to cover 4,000 acres ten feet deep.)

◆ open the door for future or existing mines to dump untold millions of tons of tailings into marine waters throughout Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, Puerto Rico, and possibly Washington, Oregon, and northern California.

The tailings would smother many species of immobile bottom dwelling plants and animals that are part of the food chain, and create long-term or permanent damage to their habitat. Little is known about how far the tailings discharge would spread or what effect it would have on other marine life. Studies are currently being done to figure out the impacts of the proposed A-J mine, but probably won't be finished for a year or more. Meanwhile, the EPA wants the public to comment now on the change to federal regulations, before the results on the A-J are in. If you think that's not fair...

**don't just clam up...
get steamed!**

Write to EPA today. Comment deadline is May 13.

Tell them: ◆ there is too little information available about the possible impacts of ocean dumping of mine tailings on marine life.

◆ they should not close the comment period for the rule change until after the A-J Mine Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is finished and the public and agencies have had adequate time to review it.

◆ or just tell them you think it's a bad idea to dump mine wastes into our marine waters.

Send comments to: Ore Mining Comment Clerk
Water Docket Mail Code 4101
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460
Or e-mail them to: kirby.ronald@epamail.epa.gov

