

KSM Mine

Spotlight on Transboundary Mines

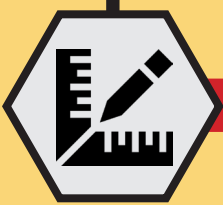
OVERVIEW

Seabridge Gold's proposed Kerr - Sulphurets - Mitchell (KSM) Mine would be built in the Unuk River headwaters, 19 miles from Alaska's border and Misty Fjords National Monument. It is one of many mega-mines planned in the salmon watersheds we share with British Columbia. It would be among the largest mines on earth and its billions of tons of acid-generating rock would enter tributaries of the Unuk River, putting nearby communities of Ketchikan, Saxman, and Metlakatla, Alaskan fishing jobs, and local cultures at risk.

QUICK FACTS

AREA

2 large watersheds
encompassed by the mine site



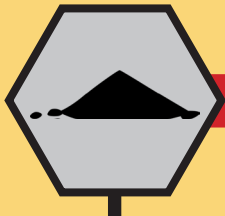
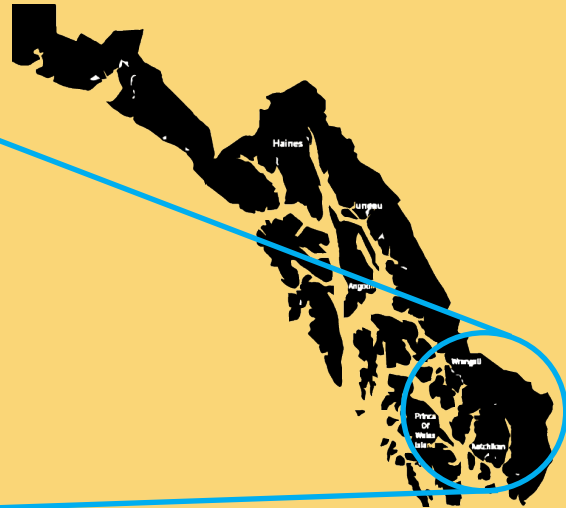
ORE

130,000 tons/day
gold, silver, copper, molybdenum ore processed



TIME

52 years
life-of-mine proposed



TAILINGS
~1.62 billion tons
produced



TAILINGS DAM
723 foot dam
one of four separate
tailings dams



WATER TREATMENT
at least 250 years
of water treatment
required



ACID GENERATION
6.15 billion tons
of wasterock are potentially
acid generating



DIGGING DEEPER

REASONS FOR CONCERN



HARM TO SALMON AND THOSE WHO DEPEND ON THEM

The KSM mega-mine is just one of many mines planned for the the Canadian headwaters of Southeast Alaska's salmon rivers. Tribal governments, fishing groups, and Southeast Alaskan communities are coming together to demand protection of Southeast Alaskan salmon from Canadian mines.



IMPACTS TO TWO WATERSHEDS

The KSM would be built in the watersheds of the Unuk and Nass Rivers. The Unuk, which begins in Canada and flows into Alaska's Misty Fjords National Monument, is a key Southeast Alaska King Salmon and Eulachon river. The Nass is British Columbia's (B.C.) third largest salmon river, producing fish that are caught by both Canadians and Alaskans.



AMONG THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD

The KSM would be among the largest open-pit mines on earth. It would extract 130,000 tons of gold, silver, copper, and molybdenum ore per day from three open pits and an underground mine in the waters of tributaries that flow into the Unuk River. This would create billions of tons of acid-generating waste rock, which would fill in entire tributaries of the Unuk and dump 119,000 Gallons of Treated Waste Water Dumped Every Minute.



UNPROVEN WATER TREATMENT

KSM's main pollution-prevention mechanism would be a complex, unproven, conceptual design for water treatment. This massive, untested plant would have to operate flawlessly and continuously for at least 250 years, if not into perpetuity.



FAILED PERMITTING SYSTEM

KSM's water quality impacts could be severe and permanent, but Seabridge relies on the same permitting system that failed at the Mount Polley Mine. The proposed treatment systems to remove heavy metals (selenium) from wastewater have yet to be proven to prevent pollution.



RELEASE OF HEAVY METALS

KSM's permit does not take into account sublethal effects of heavy metals on salmon, though analysis shows that the amount of heavy metals Seabridge would release to the Unuk can cause habitat avoidance, impaired olfaction, migratory disruption, anti-predator response, reduced growth and swimming speed, and impaired reproduction.



BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY VIOLATION

Any water pollution from the KSM would violate the Boundary Waters Treaty between Canada and the United States. The treaty states in part that "waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health or property on the other."

TAKE ACTION

Learn More and Find Action Resources

- [Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission: www.seitc.org](http://www.seitc.org)
- [Southeast Alaska Conservation Council: www.seacc.org/unuk](http://www.seacc.org/unuk)
- [Rivers Without Borders: www.riverswithoutborders.org/about-the-region/unuk](http://www.riverswithoutborders.org/about-the-region/unuk)

Get Involved

- Write to your leaders to request action on transboundary mines
- Participate in your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee
- Host an event to raise awareness
- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper

Spread the Word!

