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Mining Regulation and Rehabilitation Branch

Mr. K. R. Woolford

[REDACTED]
Prospect. SA. 5082.
1st of November, 2013.
[REDACTED]

To Nathan Zeman
Chief Executive Principal Mining Assessment Officer
DMITRE Mining Regulation and Rehabilitation Branch
via email: Nathan.zeman@sa.gov.au

GPO Box 264, Adelaide 5001

Re :Submission regarding the proposed Hillside Mine, Pine Point, Yorke Peninsula, SA.

Dear Sir,

Please do not approve Rex Minerals Pty Ltd's Mining Lease Proposal for the Hillside Project in its existing form as I strongly believe it is a catastrophe waiting to happen because of the following points.

- The size of the proposed mine operation is not in character or conducive to the surroundings of high-yield farm land and populated townships.
- Contamination to people, crops, grazing stock, drinking water, land and the Gulf of St Vincent are all very real possibilities due to copper and uranium dust present at the mine.
- Ecological disaster due to mining accidents and/or not "best practise mining" related to the storage and transportation of all mined materials
- Huge dust and sound concerns for communities within the vicinity.
- The increased drain on essential services (ie Police, fire, Ambulance) within the surrounding Communities.
- The lack of sensible rehabilitation to the mine site after mining has ceased.
- Lack of compliance.

To elaborate further, I, along with many others have a property at Black Point, Yorke Peninsula, which is situated south east of the proposed mine site. Other than about a kilometre of land, there is only the bay of Port Alfred separating us from the mine site.

This stretch of water will and does not provide any buffer to the dust and noise emanating from the mine site. During the exploratory drilling, generator and machinery noise has already been an irritant, especially at night.

The most violent wind storms, and most common in Spring Summer, are from the north- westerly direction. This puts Black Point directly in line with the 25-45 knot winds which would pick-up all the contaminated and loose dust emanating from the mine. With Rex Minerals proposing 60 heavy haulage dump trucks, plus more general purpose vehicles, huge areas of exposed top soil, a crushing plant, the loading and un-loading of mined material, waste mined piles over 100 metres tall etc, all to be controlled by a forecasted 2 water trucks. Even if there were 60 water trucks, one for each dump truck, the dust would still be a major problem. As a point of interest, whilst at Black Point in early October this

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year, we experienced 8 out of 14 days with winds over 25 and gusts to 60 knots from the north-west. No dust was apparent this time, but will be an issue in the future?

The dust will contain contaminants, copper and uranium from time to time, and this will have a huge effect. This dust will not only affect the breathing of human beings and animals but will also settle on quality grain crops and feed crops for grazing sheep. Additionally, contamination to rainwater collected from building roofs will occur, which is a vital necessity to the community with the expected further demand on poor or non-existent mains water supply in some areas. Further dust will cover pristine bushland and the Gulf of St Vincent, further damaging the environment.

If the health to humans, animals or the environment cannot be guaranteed – then the risk is too high!

Discussions with other Government Departments have not been favourable to increasing essential services of Police, fire & Ambulance when the proposed mine is operational or being built. The influx of workers and/or family from outside the immediate area will stretch these services and put the existing community at a greater risk.

Rehabilitation of the mine site after operations have ceased is almost non-existent. The land will never be used for farming again due to toxic waste and the disturbing of the top soil. Proposals of conservation or recreation parks or the like are not feasible or ever likely to be implemented. There are many examples in Australia that these projects are never completed due to lack of funding.

I fully understand that DMITRE's purpose is to set the operating conditions of the mining lease and also to police it, but I have no faith in this to happen. This is not an attack on any individual, but more that all policing in Australia, if not the majority of the world, is under resourced in this area and therefore I cannot expect DMITRE to monitor everything. There have been recent examples to confirm this at this site and other locations also within Australia.

I also attended the Public meeting held by Rex Minerals Pty Ltd CEO, Mr. Mark Parry, at Ardrossan on the 3rd of November. Mr. Parry spoke well and assured those present that the Hilltop Mine will be run under "best practises" and "continual monitoring" programs for dust, noise and contamination. Mr. Parry did not say how this was to be achieved or what safeguards there will be. Several audience speakers with apparent expertise in these fields disagreed with statements made by Mr. Parry. I questioned Mr. Parry what the next step by Rex Minerals & DMITRE would be when compliance has not occurred in these areas. Responses in general were not appropriate to the locality or not of commonsense.

In conclusion: Having read the "Rex Minerals Pty Ltd Hillside Project Mining Lease Proposal and Management Plan" and also the Updated Appendices, I believe that there is too great a risk to human and environmental damage for this project or any other similar proposals to be approved in this important farming and residential area.

Yours sincerely,

Kym R Woolford.