



**NORTON SOUND
HEALTH CORPORATION**

*Providing quality health services and promoting
wellness within our people and environment.*

May 14, 2021

Honorable Mayor John Handeland and Council Members
Nome City Council
PO Box 281
Nome, AK 99762

Subject: Letter Opposing Mining in Moonlight Springs Aquifer and Moonlight Springs Wells

Dear Mayor Handeland,

Norton Sound Health Corporation respectfully requests that the City Council not approve Resolution No. R-21-05-01 authorizing Northwest Gold Diggers, LLC to mine within the Moonlight Wells Protection Area. Protecting Nome's water source should be a priority of the Council.

The City Engineer's review of the permit following the Risk Ranking and Risk Reduction Process identified several "severe- to high-risk activities" with fuel handling and storage, and hazardous materials and recommendations for operations. Although, Northwest Gold Diggers, LLC provided preventive maintenance and spill response equipment for the mining activity, it does not eliminate the risk. Based on the "severe- to high-risk activities," NSHC opposes this permit application.

We disagree with the council approving the permit. But, if the council chooses to move forward, NSHC is requesting that the permit includes:

- 1) To cease operations immediately once operations hit hard rock. Once the operations hit hard rock, require the mining company to quit immediately and contact the city.
- 2) To move all operations out of the protected area. Move wash plant, sluice box, pond operations, double walled fuel tank, and portable restrooms (porta potties) out of the protected area as extra precautions to protect the city's water.

Again, thank you for considering our opposition to approve R-21-05-01.

Sincerely,

Angie Gorn
President/CEO

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