New Mining Threat Near Baxter and National Monument

Help Stop Wolfden’s Dangerous Mining Proposal

In January 2020, Wolfden Resources (Wolfden) submitted a rezoning petition to the Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) for a metal mine at Pickett Mountain on 528 acres near Mount Chase, not far from Baxter State Park and the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument.

The Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) is urging the LUPC to reject Wolfden’s application because the company has no prospects of being able to operate without seriously damaging Maine’s environment.

Instead of allowing corporations to damage our environment for their own profit, Maine should be building businesses that support local workers and protect our natural resources. Mining does neither. Mining companies often hire outside workers, cause pollution that lasts forever, and then declare bankruptcy, leaving struggling communities and taxpayers to pay for cleanup.

One of the Most Damaging Industries on Earth

Metal mining operations are some of the most damaging extractive industries on earth.

The types of deposits Wolfden wants to mine could create hazardous pollution that persists for centuries and is harmful to humans, plants, and animals.
Wolfden’s Mining Proposal Threatens Maine’s Environment

1. **Wolfden has failed to prove it can treat pollution adequately.**
   Because there are no streams that are large enough to handle the mine’s wastewater discharges, Wolfden would need to treat its pollution to be as clean as natural groundwater before it injects it into the ground. The company has provided no example of a comparable mining operation that has been able to do this.

2. **Wolfden has shown disrespect for Maine’s mining law and rules.**
   Wolfden has proposed disposing of tailings in closed tunnels and shafts even though Maine rules prohibit this. The Department of Environmental Protection specifically banned this practice because it would contaminate groundwater.

3. **Wolfden has not documented that it has the financial ability, as required by LUPC rules, to develop a mine.**
   Because mining is a such a demanding and dangerous industry, only companies that have strong finances can afford to do the job well. The financial statement from the company’s initial rezoning petition admits it does not have adequate funding.

Maine cannot afford to have mining companies here that would work on the cheap and leave Maine taxpayers paying for cleanup.

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**Take Action to Stop Wolfden’s Dangerous Mining Proposal**

Join NRCM in urging the LUPC to reject Wolfden’s application for rezoning. You can make your own voice heard by sending an email to the staff at LUPC stating your opposition to the rezoning at Wolfdenrezoning.LUPC@maine.gov.

For more information contact Todd Martin, Grassroots Outreach Coordinator at (207) 430-0115 or tmartin@nrcm.org