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U.S. EPA REGION 5
OFFICE OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

P. O. Box 21
Big Bay, MI 49808
November 19, 2012

Susan Headman
EPA
WW-16J
17 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Ms. Headman,

I am writing this letter to you to request that you do not grant the Marquette County Road Commission's permit for County Road 595. I agree with all your objections, but feel very strongly that the permit should be denied because the intent and purpose of the road is not truthfully stated.

County Road 595 is a haul road for Rio Tinto's Eagle Mine. There is no other reason for this road. If there were no mine on the Yellow Dog Plains, there would be no road. There was no talk of the need for a county north-south road before the mine began. There is no sufficient reference or evidence of emergency, commercial or recreational need provided by the applicant to support the stated purpose.

Even though Rio Tinto has said they will be paying for the road, the Marquette County Road Commission will be responsible for the maintenance. The Marquette County Road Commission cannot take care of the roads they already have and they have said this at road commission meetings. Allowing a public entity to utilize its authority to apply for permits in the name of public interest for the direct benefit of a private mining company sets a dangerous precedent.

The comments at the hearing in Marquette that a road is needed for medical/safety reasons were not true. It is the fire and ambulance crew from Powell Twp./Big Bay that will be the first responders. It is also the hospital in Marquette where trauma victims will be taken and the quickest route there would not be CR 595. This is just another of Rio Tinto's ploys.

Please deny this permit. The intent and purpose of this road is to haul ore. This road is basically no different than the Woodland Road proposed by Kennecott in 2010. Rio Tinto/Kennecott should have to get their own permit for their haul road. They should have to follow the law-the non-ferrous mining law, Part 632, which would include financial assurances, contingency and reclamation plans, and an EIA. Please deny this permit.

Respectfully,

Carla Champagne
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906.345-9217

cc: Tinka Hyde
Melanie Haveman