

From: [Michelle Aparton](#)
To: [Ferguson, Tracey](#)
Subject: Plumas county zoning administrator, this is a public comment regarding the request by Us Copper Corp for a vested rights determination for the Engels and Superior mines.
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 5:30:22 PM

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*Please submit to the record of Us Coppers vested rights request.

Hello, my name is Michelle Aparton and I live in Westwood, 5 minutes away from Mountains Meadows reservoir and just a few more miles away from the proposed pit mine location. I was only recently made aware that a foreign corporation, Us Copper is attempting to gain vested rights for defunct Engels & Superior mines, which has been closed for nearly a century. I went to a concerned citizens meeting and read every article and legal information I could find to understand what is going on. I was absolutely horrified by what I learned. I DEEPLY OPPOSE granting vested rights and these are my reasons why.

From what I understand, the definition of vested rights in Plumas county is "A vested mining right is a constitutionally protected property right to CONTINUE operating in a CERTAIN location and in a CERTAIN way without being required to conform to all current land use restrictions". This right applies to the owner of the mines in 1958, when the law was adopted, and only if the mines have continued operation in a specific way to present day.

Just the fact alone that Us Copper, a Canadian corporation, were not the original owners or operators of this property when the law went into effect, means it does not apply to them. Even in their own timeline of the history of the mines they state they were not the owner. "In 1938 the original mines, townsite, and equipment were dismantled and NO CONTINUOUS mining has been done up to the present". They invalidated their claim by admitting the mine was owned by Cemco from 1947-1993 during which vested rights would apply. In their timeline of "supporting facts", they state that from 1951-1959 the mines were leased "in hopes" of continuing production and "possibly" making use of the tailings on site. They were not mining at this time. They certainly haven't been pit mining.

I respectfully ask Plumas county to deny vested rights based on the facts of the law.

From an emotional standpoint, how terribly sneaky for this Canadian corporation, under the guise of a United States name, attempt to mine our home without asking our community or telling us their true intentions. They say we support a pit mine in our beautiful forest, but how can we if no one knows about it and the ones who do, seriously oppose it. They want to pollute our land, water, wildlife, our HOME, with NO PERMIT OR REGULATION. They will hire outside contractors, they won't share any profits they gain from our lands. They will only destroy our home, leaving a wasteland of toxic water and air and get away without any consequences. That is disgusting and exactly what I expected from a corporation. Why should we sacrifice more of what has already been lost to PG&E and natural disasters? We lost more than a million acres in just the last few years and I cry everyday I see the devastation around us. I OPPOSE a pit mine with all my heart and especially oppose giving away our home to a corporation that will turn our home into garbage.

Please, please don't grant vested rights.

Sincerely, Michelle Aparton