

Lake Superior Mining News

- [Home](#)
- [About Lake Superior Mining News](#)
- [Editorials](#)
- [LSMN Writers](#)
- [Reports and Documents](#)

Michigan DEQ Wants Judge to Change Recommendation Protecting Native American Sacred Site in Effort to Approve Kennecott's Eagle Mine

November 7, 2009



Steven Chester, Michigan DEQ Director; Photo courtesy State of Michigan; Oddly enough, Chester makes the final decision on whether or not his own agency followed the law in approving Kennecott-Rio Tinto's Eagle Mine application

According to the *Associated Press*, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director, [Steven Chester, wants further information from Judge Patterson](#) on whether or not Eagle Rock is legally a place of worship and is asking Patterson to reverse legal advice that would somewhat protect the religious rights of Native Americans in Michigan.

In August, Patterson recommended nearly unconditional support of Kennecott-Rio Tinto's proposed Eagle Mine, in the Huron Mountains of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. [The judge's one stipulation was that Eagle Rock, a place of worship for indigenous peoples, be protected.](#) During the contested case on the mine proposal, DEQ lawyers argued that Eagle Rock is not a place of worship because it is not a constructed building, such as a Christian church or a mosque. [Read the rest of this entry »](#)

[Leave a Comment »](#) | [Kennecott-Rio Tinto](#), [Law](#), [Michigan](#), [indigenous](#), [mining](#) | Tagged: [deq](#), [Eagle Mine](#), [Kennecott](#), [Law](#), [Michigan](#), [mining](#), [native american](#), [Rio Tinto](#) | [Permalink](#)
Posted by LSMN

[Rio Tinto Sees Increased Metal Demand from China, Will Increase Project Expenditures in 2010](#)

November 4, 2009



Whether or not it ever was truly [“deferred.”](#) Kennecott-Rio Tinto's Eagle Mine, in the Huron Mountains of Michigan's Upper Peninsula may become a top priority for the London miner next year.

According to the *Financial Times*, Rio Tinto intends to spend \$5 – \$6 billion on project development in 2010.

Where's the demand for upper Great Lakes metal coming from? According to CEO Tom Albanese the company's three primary markets for metals are [“China, China – and then again, I would say, China.”](#)

Speaking in London, Albanese stressed that [the company's relationship with China is of “critical importance to Rio Tinto.”](#)

[2 Comments](#) | [China](#), [Eagle Mine](#), [Rio Tinto](#), [mining](#) | Tagged: [China](#), [Eagle Mine](#), [Kennecott](#), [Michigan](#), [mining](#), [Rio Tinto](#) | [Permalink](#)
Posted by LSMN

[Duluth Metals Finds More Metal in Deposit](#)

October 31, 2009

Duluth Metals, a company quietly but rapidly assessing the mineral value of a gold, copper, platinum and palladium deposit outside of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, claims that [additional drilling has located even more metal than previously](#).

The incredibly water-rich area, highly valued by the State of Minnesota for tourism, has attracted a number of projects in addition to Duluth Metals' Nokomis Project, many located on public land, in the Superior National Forest.

[Franconia](#) is hoping to mine directly underneath Birch Lake; [PolyMet has recently submitted a draft Environmental Impact Assessment for its massive proposed NorthMet Project](#), located in a large wetland area; and Kennecott has been exploring further south, in Aitkin and Carlton counties.

In 2006, [Aitkin County, Minnesota, refused to allow Kennecott exploration access](#). Never a company that allows the opinion of local citizens to get in its way, [Kennecott sued the county and continued with exploration](#).

[Leave a Comment »](#) | [Uncategorized](#) | [Permalink](#)

[Posted by LSMN](#)

[Orvana Hires Former White Pine Mine Opponent](#)

October 29, 2009

Orvana Minerals recently announced final 2009 drill results for its [proposed Copperwood mining project](#), located west of the Porcupine Mountains on the Presque Isle River, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.



Presque Isle River meets Lake Superior a couple miles from Orvana's exploration. The Copperwood Project area borders roughly two and one-half miles of Lake Superior shoreline; Photo courtesy of Flickr

[Orvana is also announcing the hire of new “senior management personnel,”](#) including Dave Anderson as “Project Coordinator.” Anderson is well known in Wisconsin and Michigan for helping to stop shipments of sulfuric acid to the White Pine Mine and, more recently, for masquerading as an opponent of Kennecott’s Eagle Project at public events and hearings.

Anderson’s extensive anti-mining activism is highlighted in [The Buzzards Have Landed: The Real Story of the Flambeau Mine](#) written by Wisconsin dairy farmer, Roscoe Churchill.

In an ironic twist, Anderson now works for a company exploring the same deposit that once fed the smelter at White Pine.

The recent announcement comes a bit late, as an [Ironwood Globe article indicates that Anderson was already acting as Orvana’s project coordinator as far back as December 2008.](#)

🗨 [Leave a Comment »](#) | 📍 [Michigan](#), [Orvana](#), [copper](#), [mining](#) | Tagged: [Michigan](#), [mining](#), [Orvana](#), [Porcupine Mountains](#) | 📄 [Permalink](#)
👤 Posted by LSMN

[Report Shows Kennecott Tailings Dam Could Fail](#)

October 25, 2009

From the [Salt Lake Tribune](#):

Although those tailings could sweep across State Road 201 like a “violent and intense” flash flood in a 7.25-magnitude temblor, an independent investigation has determined that the slurry likely would stop before reaching any homes or buildings.

If a major earthquake strikes the Salt Lake Valley, Kennecott’s mine-tailings impoundment on the northern edge of Magna could fail and spill soupy sediment more than twice as far as the copper company had predicted.

In March 2008, the *Salt Lake Tribune* reported that Kennecott Utah Copper had concealed, since 1988, the potential for a major earthquake-caused tailings disaster in Magna, Utah. The tailings impoundment is located north of Magna and stores an estimated 1 billion tons of fine mine wastes. In 1992, the company conducted a “risk assessment” to determine if full containment of the impoundment would be more expensive than legal costs associated with property damage and citizen deaths.

The *Tribune* published a [1997 confidential memo, written by Ray D. Gardner, former Chief Legal Officer for Kennecott, that is highly critical of the company’s handling of the potential tailings disaster](#): “Prior management’s decisions to disregard and conceal legal advice, forego public notice, attempt to establish a residential buffer surreptitiously, collude with the State Engineer to withhold the KL studies from the public, and restrict the distribution of the Reduction Study, collectively and individually, give the appearance of a conspiracy to cover-up a profound threat to public safety.”
[Read the rest of this entry »](#)

🗨 [Leave a Comment »](#) | 📍 [Kennecott](#), [Rio Tinto](#), [mining](#) | Tagged: [Kennecott](#), [mining](#), [Rio Tinto](#) | 📄 [Permalink](#)
👤 Posted by LSMN

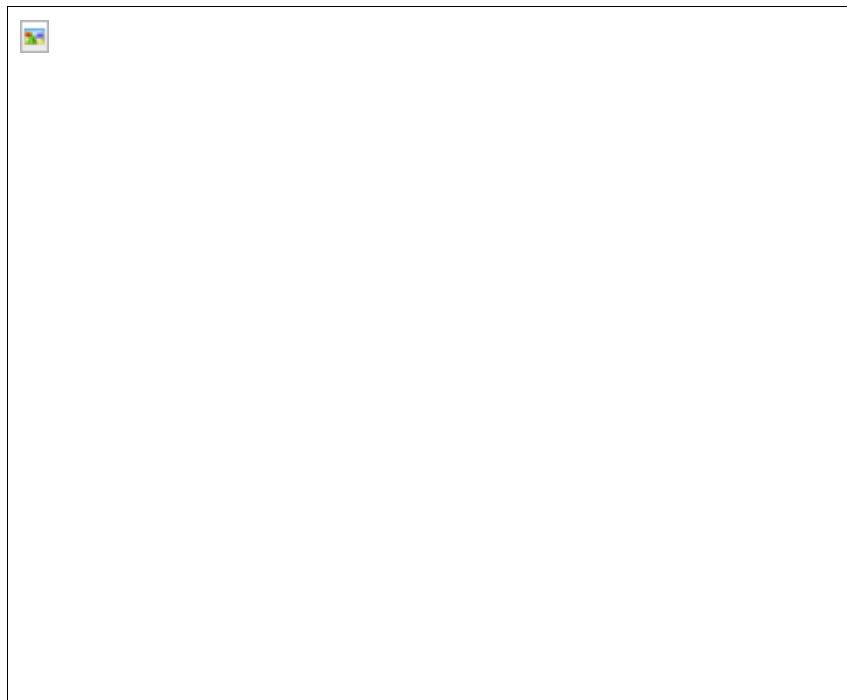
Marquette County Approves Public Portion of Rio Tinto's Haul Road for Proposed Eagle Mine

October 20, 2009



Sticker distributed before meeting by Rio Tinto's Senior Advisor for Government and Community Relations, Chantae Lessard

West Ishpeming, Michigan - Last week [Rio Tinto's head spokesperson for the proposed Eagle Mine, Deb Muchmore, informed AP that she is the new spokeswoman for a "citizen" campaign: Citizens to Protect Michigan Jobs.](#) Today's public meeting regarding Rio Tinto's proposed haul road, for the mine, featured public comment from a number of current and potential Rio Tinto employees, many sporting pro-road stickers passed out by Chantae Lessard, Senior Advisor for Government and Community Relations for Rio Tinto.



The organizing effort paid off for the company with a large turnout in support of the project [Read the rest of this entry »](#)

🗨 [Leave a Comment »](#) | 🏷 [Eagle Mine](#), [Kennecott](#), [Rio Tinto](#), [mining](#), [public land](#) | Tagged: [Eagle Mine](#), [humboldt](#), [Kennecott](#), [mining](#), [public land](#), [Rio Tinto](#), [yellow dog plains](#) | 🔗 [Permalink](#)
👤 Posted by LSMN

[Colorado Towns Oppose Uranium Mine; State to Strengthen Mining Laws](#)

October 19, 2009

[Mining engineers have condemned it](#), the State's own expert called it



Warning sign outside Cameco's Crow Butte uranium mine, in Nebraska; Photo courtesy of the Lakota Media Project of Owe Aku

[“technically antiquated, sloppy and equivalent to high school level work,”](#) Native Americans insist that [it violates their internationally-recognized treaty rights](#), and [10,000 citizens in this sparsely-populated area signed a petition opposing it](#). Yet, citizens of Michigan's Upper Peninsula would be hard-pressed to name a single county or state elected official opposed to Rio Tinto's proposed metallic sulfide Eagle Mine, in northern Marquette County.

Even the prospect of uranium mining, well known for its toxic and radioactive legacy in areas not far from Michigan, in [Ontario](#) and [Nebraska](#), are welcomed with open arms by eager officials. [Last year, the Gogebic County Commissioner expressed full support of uranium exploration and mining activities on public land.](#)

A more informed understanding of uranium mining is taking place thirteen-hundred miles from Marquette County. [In Colorado, elected officials in a number of cities and towns are passing](#)

[resolutions against a proposed *in situ* uranium mine](#) that many fear could contaminate their water supply.

Colorado is also looking to pass rules that would implement [a law requiring *in situ* uranium mines to return groundwater at the site to pre-mine quality](#). To further protect public health and water, the law would require mining companies to cite at least five examples of similar uranium mines that did not harm groundwater.

[Leave a Comment »](#) | [Law, mining, uranium, water, water pollution](#) | Tagged: [Law, mining, uranium, water, water pollution](#) | [Permalink](#)

[Posted by LSMN](#)

[**No Surprises: Cameco still leaking into Lake Ontario**](#)

October 17, 2009

Cameco, the mining giant exploring for uranium in the upper Great Lakes, [continues leaking into Lake Ontario](#), while even a [local news editor says the company better start cleaning up its act](#).

To make matters worse, the company continues to [lay off its Ontario employees](#).

Cameco has been exploring the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for uranium deposits.

[Further information on Cameco's inglorious track record](#) around the globe can be found elsewhere at *Lake Superior Mining News*.

[Leave a Comment »](#) | [cameco, mining, uranium](#) | Tagged: [mining, ontario, water pollution, uranium, cameco](#) | [Permalink](#)

[Posted by LSMN](#)

[**Kennecott Spokeswoman Organizes “Citizen” Campaign**](#)

October 15, 2009

Apparently, with the lack of a true citizen initiative to defeat a proposed hardrock mining reform ballot initiative in Michigan, Kennecott (wholly-owned subsidiary of mining giant, [Rio Tinto](#)) is [organizing a “citizen” campaign to defeat the initiative, according to the *Chicago Tribune*](#).

Kennecott's spokeswoman for the proposed Eagle Mine, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is Deb Muchmore. While retaining that post, Muchmore is now, curiously, spokeswoman for Citizens to Protect Michigan Jobs, a “developing opposition group that is expected to soon include mining interests.” It is unclear at this time if Muchmore is being paid by Kennecott to spearhead the company's front group.

[1 Comment](#) | [Eagle Mine, Kennecott-Rio Tinto, Law](#) | Tagged: [Eagle Project, Kennecott, Law, Muchmore, Rio Tinto](#) | [Permalink](#)

[Posted by LSMN](#)

[KBIC expresses “delight” yet “disappointment” with Judge’s decision on Eagle Rock](#)

September 17, 2009

by Michele Bourdieu

Baraga, Michigan – Susan J. LaFernier, vice-president of the



Susan LaFernier, KBIC vice-president, addresses the crowd at Eagle Rock during the Protect the Earth event on Aug. 2, 2009

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC), announced today, Sept. 16, 2009, that KBIC was “delighted” that Administrative Law Judge Richard Patterson ruled it was necessary for Kennecott Mining Company to protect Eagle Rock as a traditional place of worship. However, she added disappointment with his decision to uphold mining and ground water permits previously approved for Kennecott by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) — since the mine is expected to have potential adverse effects on the environment.

To read the remainder of this article, by Michele Bourdieu, please visit the article page, at [Keweenaw Now](#).

🗨 [Leave a Comment »](#) | 📍 [Eagle Mine](#), [Kennecott-Rio Tinto](#), [Law](#), [Michigan](#), [indigenous](#), [mining](#) |
Tagged: [Eagle Rock](#), [Keweenaw Now](#) | 🔗 [Permalink](#)
👤 Posted by LSMN

[« Previous Entries](#)

• [LSMN on Twitter](#)

- UK High Court tosses case over government's unconditional, and illegal, buy of Royal Bank of Scotland, a big... <http://bit.ly/1XOX4r> 1 day ago
- It's getting boring. . . BHP Billiton may try to buy Rio Tinto again. <http://bit.ly/2RcmjZ> 1 day ago

- Michigan DEQ Director Chester asks judge if Eagle Rock is really, "legally" a place of worship before giving... <http://bit.ly/1uEdGe> 1 day ago

• LSMN on Facebook

[Lake Superior Mining News on Facebook](#)

• Tags

[Africa](#) [alien tort](#) [Aquila](#) [bougainville](#) [cameco](#) [China](#) [civil disobedience](#) [clean water act](#) [cliffs](#) [coaster brook](#) [trout](#) [deq](#) [dnr](#) [Eagle](#) [Eagle Mine](#) [Eagle Project](#) [Eagle Rock](#) [economy](#) [Film](#) [first nation](#) [Flambeau](#) [Guinea](#) [human rights](#) [humboldt](#) [Kennecott](#) [Keweenaw Now](#) [Law](#) [Michigan](#) [mine safety](#) [mining](#) [Muchmore](#) [native american](#) [ontario](#) [politicians](#) [pollution](#) [protect the earth](#) [public land](#) [Rio Tinto](#) [selenium](#) [uranium](#) [water](#) [water pollution](#) [Wisconsin](#) [workers](#) [yellow dog](#) [plains](#) [yellow dog summer](#)

• Blogroll

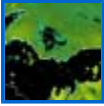
- [Business and Human Rights Resource Center](#)
- [Colombia Solidarity Campaign](#)
- [Down to Earth](#)
- [EARTHblog](#)
- [Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility](#)
- [Free West Papua](#)
- [Front Forty](#)
- [Keweenaw Bay Indian Community](#)
- [Keweenaw Now](#)
- [London Mining Network](#)
- [Mines and Communities](#)
- [Northwoods Wilderness Recovery](#)
- [Our Bristol Bay](#)
- [Peaceful Uprising](#)
- [Philippine Indigenous People's Link](#)
- [Save Our Sky Blue Waters](#)
- [Save the Wild UP](#)
- [St. Columbans](#)
- [Wisconsin Resources Protection Council](#)
- [WordPress.com](#)
- [WordPress.org](#)
- [Yellow Dog Summer](#)
- [Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve](#)

• Search LSMN

• Top Posts

- [Rio Tinto Sees Increased Metal Demand from China, Will Increase Project Expenditures in 2010](#)
- [Michigan DEQ Wants Judge to Change Recommendation Protecting Native American Sacred Site in Effort to Approve Kennecott's Eagle Mine](#)
- [Judge Upholds DEQ Permits for Mine, Recommending Protection For Eagle Rock](#)
- [Editorials](#)
- [About Lake Superior Mining News](#)
- [Wisconsin Citizens Sue DNR, Kennecott Over Ongoing Flambeau Mine Pollution](#)
- [Kennecott and DEQ Quietly Moving Forward With South Road Project, Despite Risk to Wetlands and Forest Ecosystems](#)
- [Reports and Documents](#)
- [Maki June 20, 2008](#)
- [Maki June 19, 2008](#)

• LSMN Writers

-  [LSMN](#)
-  **teresabertossi**
-  **doncorvette**

• Meta

- [Log in](#)
- [Entries RSS](#)
- [Comments RSS](#)
- [WordPress.com](#)

Theme Contempt by [Vault9](#).
[Blog at WordPress.com](#).

»