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**From:** Khawklee@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2009 10:48 AM  
**To:** Stephen Cohen  
**Subject:** Comment

Dear Mr. Cohen:

I am adamantly opposed to allowing construction prior to permitting, which obviously puts the 'cart before the horse.' Once this happens, it is too difficult for the regulators to say "No" to a permit, and too difficult for repairs and reconstruction to take place. Here are two (2) examples:

#1. Cotter Corporation constructed its 145 acres of uranium tailings impoundment ponds **before** getting a permit. The impoundment pond was approved because it was too late not to approve it (in the official's minds.) And now, 30 years later those same officials have admitted that the primary impoundment pond **LEAKS!** And it is uphill from Lincoln Park homes within 1/4 mile.

#2. This mine was just fined \$880,000 for violations of their construction permit:  
By: The Associated Press | 12 May 2009 | 10:49 PM ET  
Text Size

NOME, Alaska - The owners and operators of the inactive Rock Creek Mine in Nome have agreed to pay more than \$880,000 in a civil penalty to resolve violations of a storm water discharge permit, federal authorities said Tuesday.

According to court documents, Alaska Gold Co. and its parent company, British Columbia-based NovaGold Resources Inc., violated their construction permit on multiple occasions over a 15-month period beginning in April 2007 by discharging too much silt and sediment into Rock, Lindblom and Glacier creeks in violation of state water quality standards.

"Whether it's in a far corner of Alaska or in a crowded urban area, storm water rules protect our waterways from polluted runoff," Michelle Pirzadeh, EPA's acting regional administrator in Seattle, said in the statement. "The construction at Rock Creek Mine resulted in virtually unchecked runoff of silt and sediment to important fish habitat. Companies taking on construction projects of this scale need to do so responsibly and in accordance with the law."

The point is that these companies **ALREADY** violate the permits causing damage to our water, why would you want to make it even easier for them to operate in this fashion?

Do not legitimize the practice of companies who do the wrong thing, then beg forgiveness afterward!  
Thank you for hearing me,  
Kay M. Hawklee



Canon City, CO 81212

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Message-ID: <bf5.590cbe8a.3742cf0b@aol.com>

Date: Mon, 18 May 2009 10:47:39 -0400

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