

LAKES ARE NOT TOXIC DUMPSITES!!

Canadian lakes being destroyed by mining waste

Since 2006, Schedule 2, a loophole in the Metal Mining Effluent Regulation of the Fisheries Act, has allowed metal mining companies to apply for federal and provincial approval to use bodies of fresh water as tailings ponds for mining waste. Once placed on Schedule 2, a lake loses all the protections of the Fisheries Act, which would normally prevent the dumping of toxins into fish-bearing bodies of water. Under Schedule 2, a lake can be reclassified as a “tailings impoundment area.” So far, four lakes have already been approved for destruction and many more are on a list awaiting approval. In 2008, there were at least 11 lakes across the country that mining companies had asked to be put on Schedule 2. Today, however, there is no further public information from Environment Canada on the status of these or about any other lakes that are being considered for reclassification.

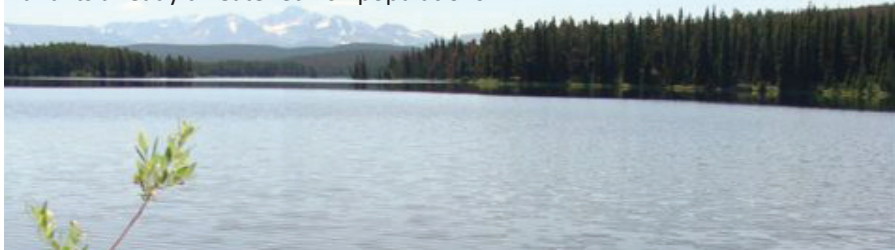
Teztan Biny

Vancouver-based mining company Taseko Mines Ltd is proposing to drain Teztan Biny (Fish Lake) in order to stockpile mining waste, and to use Fish Creek and Little Fish Lake as tailings impoundment areas for a gold-copper mining project called Prosperity Mine. Teztan Biny is home to an estimated 85,000 rainbow trout, as well as many other important aquatic species.

The Tsilhqot’in have lived in the area for thousands of years. They oppose the environmental destruction being proposed by Taseko Mines and were not consulted by the Province of British Columbia when it approved the project.

What are the impacts?

The practice of dumping toxic mining waste into a lake, effectively kills the body of water and all living things within it. It cannot be reclaimed 10 or 15 years later, after the mining company has packed up and left the scene. Furthermore, the contamination cannot be isolated and contained. Lakes and rivers are part of a larger watershed and are connected through groundwater and a network of tributaries. What affects one body of water is a threat to all other bodies of water within the larger system, and this system is connected to the Fraser River and its already threatened fish populations.



LAKES ARE NOT TOXIC DUMPSITES!!

Canadian lakes being destroyed by mining waste

Since 2006, Schedule 2, a loophole in the Metal Mining Effluent Regulation of the Fisheries Act, has allowed metal mining companies to apply for federal and provincial approval to use bodies of fresh water as tailings ponds for mining waste. Once placed on Schedule 2, a lake loses all the protections of the Fisheries Act, which would normally prevent the dumping of toxins into fish-bearing bodies of water. Under Schedule 2, a lake can be reclassified as a “tailings impoundment area.” So far, four lakes have already been approved for destruction and many more are on a list awaiting approval. In 2008, there were at least 11 lakes across the country that mining companies had asked to be put on Schedule 2. Today, however, there is no further public information from Environment Canada on the status of these or about any other lakes that are being considered for reclassification.

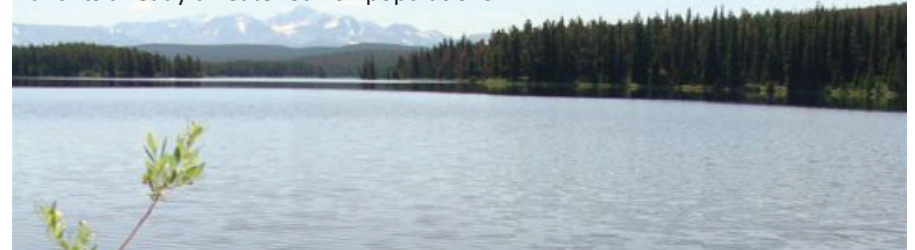
Teztan Biny

Vancouver-based mining company Taseko Mines Ltd is proposing to drain Teztan Biny (Fish Lake) in order to stockpile mining waste, and to use Fish Creek and Little Fish Lake as tailings impoundment areas for a gold-copper mining project called Prosperity Mine. Teztan Biny is home to an estimated 85,000 rainbow trout, as well as many other important aquatic species.

The Tsilhqot’in have lived in the area for thousands of years. They oppose the environmental destruction being proposed by Taseko Mines and were not consulted by the Province of British Columbia when it approved the project.

What are the impacts?

The practice of dumping toxic mining waste into a lake, effectively kills the body of water and all living things within it. It cannot be reclaimed 10 or 15 years later, after the mining company has packed up and left the scene. Furthermore, the contamination cannot be isolated and contained. Lakes and rivers are part of a larger watershed and are connected through groundwater and a network of tributaries. What affects one body of water is a threat to all other bodies of water within the larger system, and this system is connected to the Fraser River and its already threatened fish populations.



The draining of Teztan Biny and the dumping of toxins into Fish Creek and Little Fish Lake will eventually contaminate the Taseko River, a tributary of the Chilko River, which joins the Fraser River. The Fraser River has the largest runs of Sockeye salmon in the world and is an important source of food and economic security to First Nations and non-aboriginal people within the entire Fraser watershed.

Fish Lake and its surroundings are an important source of food security for the Tsilhqot'in Nation, who have lived, fished, and hunted here for thousands of years. This area is their home.

The Tsilhqot'in National Government has argued that the average household in the area lives on less than \$10,000 a year. Their wellbeing is contingent on the ability to fish, pick berries, and hunt in this area. The proposed destruction of Teztan Biny and its adjacent ecosystems will drive many in these communities into abject poverty.

The area is also sacred to the Tsilhqot'in. It contains pit houses and burial grounds that would be destroyed by the project. The Tsilhqot'in have been passing on their cultural heritage by teaching younger generations to fish in Teztan Biny. Its destruction would be a severe attack on the community's cultural integrity.

What you can do

A federal review panel will hold public hearings starting March 22. To register or make a submission by March 12, send an email to prosperity.review@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Send a message to MP Dick Harris to voice your opposition to the project at: harrir1@parl.gc.ca. Please also send a message to Canadian Environment Minister Jim Prentice at: Prentice.J@parl.gc.ca

World Water Day Rally to Defend Teztan Biny

Monday, March 22nd (World Water Day), 4:00 p.m.

Cariboo Memorial Recreation, 525 Proctor Street, Williams Lake

For further information, or to inquire about car-pooling, email hgrewal@canadians.org or phone 1-604-688-8846



The draining of Teztan Biny and the dumping of toxins into Fish Creek and Little Fish Lake will eventually contaminate the Taseko River, a tributary of the Chilko River, which joins the Fraser River. The Fraser River has the largest runs of Sockeye salmon in the world and is an important source of food and economic security to First Nations and non-aboriginal people within the entire Fraser watershed.

Fish Lake and its surroundings are an important source of food security for the Tsilhqot'in Nation, who have lived, fished, and hunted here for thousands of years. This area is their home.

The Tsilhqot'in National Government has argued that the average household in the area lives on less than \$10,000 a year. Their wellbeing is contingent on the ability to fish, pick berries, and hunt in this area. The proposed destruction of Teztan Biny and its adjacent ecosystems will drive many in these communities into abject poverty.

The area is also sacred to the Tsilhqot'in. It contains pit houses and burial grounds that would be destroyed by the project. The Tsilhqot'in have been passing on their cultural heritage by teaching younger generations to fish in Teztan Biny. Its destruction would be a severe attack on the community's cultural integrity.

What you can do

A federal review panel will hold public hearings starting March 22. To register or make a submission by March 12, send an email to prosperity.review@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Send a message to MP Dick Harris to voice your opposition to the project at: harrir1@parl.gc.ca. Please also send a message to Canadian Environment Minister Jim Prentice at: Prentice.J@parl.gc.ca

World Water Day Rally to Defend Teztan Biny

Monday, March 22nd (World Water Day), 4:00 p.m.

Cariboo Memorial Recreation, 525 Proctor Street, Williams Lake

For further information, or to inquire about car-pooling, email hgrewal@canadians.org or phone 1-604-688-8846

