



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

North Coast Region

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March 10, 2003

Scott D. Conroy
Forest Supervisor
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rogue River National Forest
P.O. Box 520
Medford, OR 97501-0209

Dear Mr. Conroy:

Subject: Preassessment Screen for the Blue Ledge Mine Site

File: Blue Ledge Mine, Jacksonville, Oregon

This letter responds to the Preassessment Screen report dated October 28, 2002, prepared by Environmental International Ltd., regarding the Blue Ledge Mine located in Siskiyou County, California, just south of the Oregon Border. We received the report on January 27, 2003. The mine is situated near the headwaters of Joe Creek, a tributary stream within the Upper Applegate Watershed.

The report contained laboratory results for surface water sampling performed in Joe Creek and Elliot Creek above and below the mine site. The drainage from the mine site contains concentrations of cadmium, copper, and zinc that far exceed EPA freshwater criteria. This water is clearly toxic to aquatic life.

We support the work of the Forest Service in the investigation of the mine site. We would like to participate to the extent our resources may allow in any measures which may be necessary to abate the effects of the mine drainage.

If you any questions or comments please contact me at (707) 576-2670.

Sincerely,

Roy O'Connor
Associate Engineering Geologist

RRO:js/trobl303

cc: U.S. Forest Service, Klamath National Forest, 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097

California Environmental Protection Agency



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