



Lake Babine Nation

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Pacific Booker Minerals' mining lease application does not improve flawed project

Wednesday, April 27, 2016: Pacific Booker Minerals (PBM) has applied to the Province to convert its mineral claim in the Morrison Lake area into a mining lease. Lake Babine Nation opposes this application, which it views as an attempt to shore up a struggling project application and attract investors. This application to convert the mineral claim to a lease is on top of the Further Assessment that PBM must conduct for the Proposed Morrison Mine Project. The Province ordered the Further Assessment last July due to significant information and analysis gaps in the original, multi-year, Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Mine.

Chief Adam explains: "BC rejected this Mine for good reasons in 2012, and PBM has made no improvements to this fundamentally flawed project since that original rejection. This open-pit mine would be built in the heart of Lake Babine Nation's Territory, in a watershed that supports the mighty Skeena River wild sockeye. It would sit less than 100 metres from salmon-rich Morrison Lake and discharge treated mine effluent into the Lake. PBM is trying to entrench itself in our Territory by converting its mineral claim to a lease, but at the end of the day, our Aboriginal rights and title trump this terrible project."

Chief Adam adds that "The Proposed Morrison Mine application threatens our culture, our way of life, and our Territory. This is why Lake Babine Nation simply cannot allow, and will not allow, this Mine to be built. This project is a no go."

The Proposed Morrison Mine application has a long and messy history. BC originally rejected the Proposed Morrison Mine on September 28, 2012. In that decision, then Energy, Mines and Natural Gas Minister Rich Coleman and Environment Minister Terry Lake noted the unacceptable environmental risks that would be created by building a Mine directly beside the pristine Morrison Lake, at the headwaters of the Skeena River, which is the second-largest producer of sockeye salmon in B.C. The Ministers also rejected the Mine on account of what they described as LBN's "moderate to strong" Aboriginal title claim. In December 2013, PBM won a court case forcing BC to re-reconsider Morrison Mine because the EAO had recommended that the Ministers reject it without informing PBM of this negative recommendation. On July 7, 2015, BC completed this court-ordered reconsideration and ordered that the Proposed Morrison Mine Project undergo "Further Assessment" to address significant information and analysis gaps in the original project application.

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