

Municipality of Anchorage



*P.O. Box 390
Girdwood, Alaska 99587
<http://www.muni.org/gbos>
David Bronson, Mayor*

*GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Briana Sullivan & Jennifer Wingard, Co-Chairs
Mike Edgington, Amanda Sassi, Guy Wade*

LETTER OF OBJECTION

July 19, 2023

TO: State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water
Sent via email to: yannick.calvez@alaska.gov

RE: Letter of Objection: ADL 234206

Yannick Calvez,

The Girdwood Board of Supervisors (GBOS) is writing to request extension of the of the comment period and to express our objection to the approval of ADL 234206 for ENSTAR use of and clearing within a section line easement across Municipal lands in the Girdwood Valley.

Narrative

Request for Extension of the Comment Period.

Notice of the ADL was dated July 6; it was received by some community members July 10 and to date, only a handful of residents have become aware of the proposed project. GBOS was never formally notified by either the Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) or the applicant, ENSTAR. Many community members remain unaware of the ADL and proposal. The July 20 public comment deadline does not provide GBOS and community members sufficient time to learn about the project, understand its implications for our community, and to provide comment.

Request for denial of authorization.

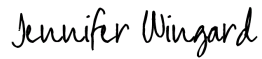
The proposed easement and project require significant clear cut through one of Girdwood's prized natural areas, which is designated Open Space to preserve the natural character and existing and future recreational opportunities. The area is frequently used year-round for recreation as identified in the [Girdwood Trails Management Plan](#) and the [Girdwood Trails Master Plan](#).

Lower Virgin Creek Trail and Joe Danich Trail both provide access to the area. Throughout the recent Girdwood Trails Plan process, the community acknowledged that the area is a vital watershed and important wildlife habitat within the unique temperate rainforest. Girdwood went to great effort to retain the area in its existing condition and to preserve primitive trails within it. Meetings addressing this topic often had greater than 100 people in attendance and lengthy discussions. Easement clearing would overlap and cross the trail, permanently and significantly damage the experience that our community has worked hard to preserve.

Conclusion

The GBOS requests that at a minimum the DMLW extend the comment period by 30 days, to Monday, August 21, 2023. This extension of the comment period will allow the community to become aware of the project and provide their comments to the proposed project.

Furthermore, the GBOS encourages DMLW to deny the authorization for ADL 234206 because of conflict in use created by clearcutting adjacent to and across existing community trails.



Jennifer Wingard
GBOS Co-Chair & Land Use Supervisor



Amanda Sassi
Roads and Utilities Supervisor

Cc: Sterling Lopez, Sr. ROW & Permitting Agent sterling.lopez@enstarnaturalgas.com