

Telephone (098) 25564

Minister Ryan
Dail Eireann
Dublin

EXPLORATION & MINING DIVISION
- 5 DEC 2007
DEPT. OF COMMUNICATIONS,
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

"Derron",
Newport Road,
Westport,
Co. Mayo
29.11.07

We, the undersigned, would like to
strongly object to a prospecting licence
being granted to 'Mayo Gold' for the
area named as Cregganbawn, Co. Mayo
It would be a disaster for the
area.

(Mrs) June King
[Signature]

Adra casan
Knapppagh
Westport,
Co. Mayo.
14th Jan: 2008.

Department Of Communications, Energy and Resources,
Office of the Minister,
29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2

Ref:- N.G.2007327

Dear Mr. Ryan,

Thank you for your letter of Dec. 21st last in reply to mine regarding gold and silver prospecting in this part of Mayo.

The size of the area for which licences are sought covers at least 160 square miles and Mayo's Gold Ltd. idea of local consultations seems to be either ingenuous or insulting. To have suggested, as they have, that they are only interested in a small show mine for the interest of tourists, and that a small amount of gold only will be extracted to make Irish gold jewellery for the ex-patriot community who are, it seems, longing for Irish gold, is not a very convincing scenario given the price of gold on world markets and the size of their application.

We have had mining interests like this in the Westport area before, as I am sure you are aware, and we all took the trouble then to find out how gold is extracted and the problems that arise from this. West Mayo is a very windy area and the tons of powdered rock left after an ounce or two of gold is extracted is no small thing to be disposed of; the usual extraction method is cyanidation and the problems from the use of this process are widely known as accidents are occurring world wide, e.g. Romania in 2000 when a spill contaminated 250 miles of the Danube and its tributaries. As the Czech Republic have banned cyanide leaching and courts in Greece and Turkey have ruled against the process because of the environmental and health risks, it seems the highest folly for us to consider it.

Even if Mayo's Gold Ltd. were to find that Biocatalyzed leaching of silver and gold was a viable alternative for extraction there still remains the the problem of the massive environmental impact of mining and the enormous amount of overburden to be disposed of in this very windy place with its very high rain fall.

With a few notable exceptions the mining industry in Ireland has had a poor track record for meeting their commitments to clean up and restore areas when the minerals are no longer financially viable. All of these issues have given rise to a deep antipathy towards the industry as a whole in this area.

I hope that you will consider these observations as you are adjudicating this matter. I look forward to your response when you have the time,

yours sincerely,

Susan Minish

Susan Minish

Office of the Minister
Dept. of Communications, Energy
And Natural Resources

16 JAN 2008

Oifig an Aire
Roinn Cumarsáide,
Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Idúrtha

Office of the Minister
Dept. of Communications, Energy And
Natural Resources

Mr. Harry Hughes,
Woodlawn,
New Road,
Westport,
Co. Mayo
Tel: 09826023

22 NOV 2007

Oifig an Aire
Roinn Cumarsáide,
Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádirtha

Mr. Eamon Ryan TD.,
Mister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources,
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources,
29-31 Adelaide Road,
Dublin 2,
Ireland

21/11/07

Dear Minister,

Nice to meet you at the Mayo Association business lunch last Friday. As promised I enclose a copy of my book about Croagh Patrick.

Also enclosed is a copy of a notice your department recently published in *The Connaught Telegraph* newspaper re prospecting licences in the Westport and Louisburgh areas. This is the least popular of the three local newspapers and it is not read in these areas. I doubt if twenty copies would sell in Louisburgh, while hundreds of copies of *The Mayo News* are sold.

Publishing the notice like this is seen as underhand and in bad faith by many here. It would be to your credit if you re-published this notice in *The Mayo News* and give all the citizens of this area proper access to the information. It may delay the process by a few weeks but it will not leave you open to such allegations as stated above.

Wishing you every success in your department.

Yours sincerely


Harry Hughes

FAO SOIC
For Observations _____
For Action _____
For Follow Up _____
For Information _____
C.C. _____
Date 22.11.2007



TIDY TOWNS COMMITTEE
Westport • County Mayo • Ireland

6th December 2007

Fiona McGuinness,
Exploration & Mining Division,
Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources,
Leeson Lane,
Dublin 2.

Dear Ms McGuinness,

Westport Tidy Towns Committee wishes to register its objection to plans to grant a Prospecting License to Mayo's Gold.

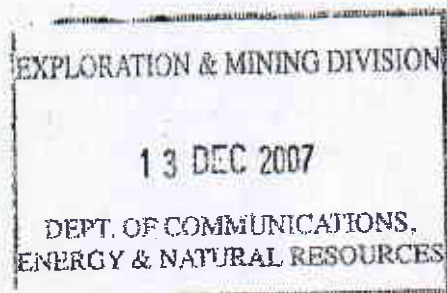
We are concerned that this proposed venture will destroy the visual amenity of this area, a unique area of outstanding natural beauty.

Westport Tidy Towns are concerned with sustainable development while at the same time protecting the landscape, one which attracts thousands of visitors to our area each year. The possibility of prospecting licenses being granted for 'exploration' in the area was discussed at our recent committee meeting and our members expressed grave concerns about the future of tourism in the area if this prospecting is allowed to go ahead.

We trust you will take our views into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Eithne Larkin
Chairperson
Westport Tidy Town Committee.





The Fairgreen, Westport, Co. Mayo.

Telephone (098)27375. Fax (098) 27916.

Email: info@westportireland.com Website: www.westportireland.com

Ms. Fiona McGuinness,
Exploration and Mining Division,
Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources,
Beggars Bush,
Haddington Road,
Dublin 4.

01/12/07

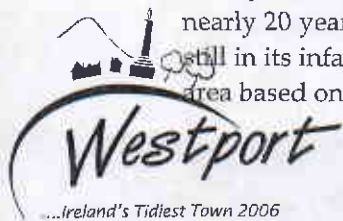
Re: - Objection against the issuing of prospecting licences to Mayo's Gold as advertised in the Connaught Telegraph.

Dear Madam,

Following a recent Executive Meeting of the Westport Chamber Of Commerce (which represents over one hundred business interests across a vast range of sectors in the entire Clew Bay Region) and after having examined all the facts available to us at this point in time in relation to the above application for prospecting licences we wish to object to the granting of same for the following reasons.

1. It has not been conclusively proven that mining will in any way be of any economic benefit to the area, people of Mayo or the Irish State.
2. This region supports over two thousand people, directly employed full time in the tourist trade. The main attraction of this region to tourists is the pristine environment and scenery. Mining is not compatible with this.
3. We are very concerned about the possible use of toxic substances if mining takes place and the possible adverse impact visually, environmentally and otherwise that mining would have on the areas outlined in the application which are of high scenic amenity, historical and religious importance. Furthermore many of the proposed areas are designated Special Areas of Conservation.
4. At this point in time conflicting information is circulating in relation to the size and scale of the operation proposed by the company (Mayo's Gold) initially they released information stating the scale of the operation would be a small tourist mine, yet the application covers an area of approximately 200 square miles. This has again caused our fears to increase and we feel that the company are not wholly forthcoming on what they propose for the area.

Finally, The Westport Chamber Of Commerce made an objection to gold mining in this area nearly 20 years ago at a time when Westport and its surrounding areas tourism industry was still in its infancy stages on the basis that there was strong potential growth for tourism in the area based on its pristine environment, natural amenities and scenery.



A Helping Hand at your Fingertips



Westport Family Resource Centre

Westport Family Resource Centre,
The Fairgreen,
Westport,
Co. Mayo.
098 24419
westportfrc@eircom.net

Quay Development Project

Ms Fiona McGuinness
Exploration and Mining Division
Dept of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources
Lesson Lane
Dublin 2

Wednesday, 05 December 2007
Re: Issuing of Prospecting licences to Mayo's Gold as advertised in the Connaught Telegraph.

Dear Madam,

At a recent meeting the above group passed a motion objecting to the issuing of any prospecting licences for the West Mayo region.
The basis of this submission is that the proposal would be incongruous to proper planning and development of the area in question.

Signed on behalf of the committee,

Tom McGrann
Development Worker



Funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan, 2000 – 2006.

Company No. 380806
Directors: John McDonagh, Adebayo Oladele, Mariea Mortimer,
Bríd McCauley, Anne Gannon, Noreen Eade, Madeline Jordan, Catherine Mulloy, Tom McGrann,

io

Fiona McGuinness

Exploration and Mining Division,
Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources

Leeson Street

Dublin 2



29th November 2007

Dear Fiona McGuinness,

Recently I read a report where Mayo Gold has applied for a prospecting licence in the beautiful area of West Mayo or as stated in the application the area of Cragganbaun.

After living many years in the United States, last year my family and I decided to move home to Ireland, and we choice the area of Liscarney, Westport, because of the outstanding beauty of the area.

It was with some concern that I read the report that Mayo Gold wants to prospect and conduct mining activities in this unspoilt country side. Mining is one of those industries where no matter how much technology you apply it always blitzes the land and spoils the tranquillity of an area. This scheme will also put more large trucks, carrying minerals, equipments parts etc, on the narrow roads of this area and it will make the roads more dangerous. There are already quarries in this area and when you pass by one the trucks going to and froe these quarries, on many an occasion one is forced to drive in to hedges to avoid collision with these large vehicles.

I respectfully request that you take this letter as a strong objection to the granting of prospecting license and I kindly request that, on the grounds of road safety, spoiling the piece and tranquillity beauty of this unique and beautiful region that you deny the license application.

Thank you for your time to reading this letter and understanding the concerns expressed

Yours Sincerely

Imtiaz Mirza

"Westwinds" Leenane Road, Boheh, Liscarney, Westport, County Mayo

58
35 The Elms,
Westport,
Co. Mayo.
4/12/07



Dear Minister,

I wish to object to the issuing of prospecting mining licences in the West Mayo region. I was very involved in the anti-mining lobby here 20 years ago and my feelings have not changed. Is this ugly monster of greed going to raise its despicable head every few years in our beautiful area. Someone has to shout stop - we did it before and we'll do it again. You would do well to heed the slogan "Mine to destroy or ours to enjoy?" This environment is not yours to destroy.

Sincerely
D. P. P.