

Idaho-Maryland Mine Report – February 10, 2025

Update - Rise Gold Corp Lawsuit Against Nevada County

On February 3, a hearing was held in Nevada County Superior Court to set the calendar for the lawsuit. However, Presiding Judge S. Robert Tice-Raskin requested that the parties involved produce a three page summary document outlining the essential points of the case. The calendar hearing was reset for March 24. CEA Foundation continues to monitor the case closely in order to best support the County's defense, including a proposed amicus brief filing.

Background - The Nevada County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to deny Rise Gold's claim of vested rights on Dec 14, 2023, and on Feb 16, 2024 they unanimously voted to deny Rise Gold's application for a Use Permit to open the mine and denied certification of the Environmental Impact Report. See <https://www.minewatchnc.org> or <https://website.cea-nc.org/projects/idaho-maryland-mine> for additional information.

Subsequently, Rise Filed a lawsuit on May 10, 2024, claiming "bias" by the county and seeking to overturn both decisions. The massive records for the case (59,000 pages) were assembled by the County and submitted in November of 2024.

Clean Up The Toxic Mine Water Polluting Wolf Creek !

CEA Foundation is taking action to clean up polluted mine water flowing into Wolf Creek from the Idaho-Maryland Mine. During the lengthy process in which Rise Gold Corp's effort to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine was initialized, reviewed, and ultimately rejected by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, public awareness of the two mine sites – Brunswick and Centennial – became well established.

However there is little awareness of the legacy shafts which are part of the Idaho-Maryland Mine complex. They surface at the north side of Idaho-Maryland Road onto properties not owned by Rise. These shafts – the Eureka and the East Eureka – drain the 73 miles of tunnels of the Mine. The effluent from these gravity-fed drains flows directly into Wolf Creek, with levels exceeding safe thresholds for Arsenic, Lead and other toxic metals. As the owner of the subsurface mineral rights, Rise Gold is responsible for this pollution.

On September 5, 2024, CEA notified Rise that their pollution is violating the Clean Water Act and that to avoid legal action they needed to take action within 60 days, either by acquiring a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit or by entering into a consent agreement with CEA. A NPDES permit is the first step towards bringing the illegal discharge into conformance with the law. It should eventually lead to the analysis and design of a remediation project.

Throughout this 60 day period, CEA Foundation encouraged Rise to enter into a consent agreement and avoid legal action. Finally, after no meaningful response from Rise, CEA filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Sacramento on December 20, 2024. The lawsuit simply requires that Rise obtain a NPDES permit and cease violating the Clean Water Act, taking a key step towards developing a long-term solution that will restore clean water flowing into Wolf Creek now and into the future.

Update Feb 10 - As of Feb 10, CEA is still working towards reaching a voluntary agreement before furthering the legal action but, without an agreement, will soon move towards scheduling the first court hearing on the case. See <https://website.cea-nc.org/projects/imm-toxic-mine-drain-cleanup> for further details.

Rise Gold Defaults on DTSC Clean Up of 56 Acre Centennial Site

Rise Gold Corp's Centennial site cleanup agreement with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) was terminated by the DTSC on November 22, 2024, due to failure to pay past due fees and failure to submit updates to the draft Final Remedial Action Plan. (See the DTSC termination notice at cea-nc.org/documents/idaho-maryland_mine/SVA-termination-letter-10-23-2024.pdf)