

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



November 14, 2007

Robert D. Tolpa
Acting Director, Water Division
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

**Cultural Division
Repatriation
Program**

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Dear Mr. Tolpa,

It is the contention of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (SSMTCI) that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not appropriately consulted with the SSMTCI or any other Native American Nations with Historic presence relative to the Kennecott Eagle Minerals Mining Project; Marquette County, MI.

The Sault Tribe and all other Ojibwe/Chippewa Nations have a deeply rooted cultural and historic association with the area of the proposed project that cannot be disputed. Consultation and cooperation with federal agencies forms a vital part of our efforts to protect sacred, historic and cultural places, especially on federal lands and other public lands. We look to the federal government and its agencies to fulfill their legislated and constitutional responsibilities to the tribes, more than ever in regard to the protection and preservation of our cultural resources. However we are deeply saddened by the low level of effort that was displayed by the EPA to assist and cooperate with us on this undertaking during the initial stages.

A telephone call or letter notifying us of this undertaking would have assured us that our concerns with regards to the environment and potential adverse affect to the area in question of the project were being addressed. We were never part of the decision-making process with this project.

It is highly likely that a burial site(s) and other Traditional Cultural Properties exist within the area in question. The remains of our Ancestors and the places where they are buried hold a special place in our hearts. The maintenance of our relationship with our Ancestors is a principal part of our cultural beliefs and practices. This entails ceremonial, spiritual and physical protocols that would not be maintained before, during or after this project.

We are also concerned about the fact that certain protocols regarding consultation were possibly not followed per the National Historic Preservation Act and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

We are in complete opposition to any proposed project that would compromise and/or adversely affect the environment, our Mother the Earth. We would respectfully request in writing the future intentions of the EPA regarding this project or any other.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Cecil E. Pavlat Sr.", written in a cursive style.

Cecil E. Pavlat Sr.
Cultural Repatriation Specialist
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

cc: Summer Cohen, KBIC