

Report questions the safety and economics of proposed KSM mine

23 Jun 15 | Author [James Perkins](#)

Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell's proposed gold and copper mine threatens the environmental safety in the region and would not be profitable, a report from two environmental groups has [claimed](#).

The report identifies the mine as a direct threat to the region's salmon and predicts that the high levels of water to be stored and processed will cause issues.

"The most significant risk associated with what KSM is proposing is the unprecedented volume of water that the mine is planning to manage and treat," said an official from the Montana office of Earthworks, a group that focuses on the conservation of mines.

They predict that the mine will be handling over 20 billion gallons a year, which they claim is far in excess of the next-largest open pit mine in North America.

The report also highlights the proposals for a tailings dam at the site, describing the use of the storage technique as out of date and subject to failure, following a tailings collapse in British Columbia last year.

In addition researchers suggest that the mine itself would not be profitable; Earthworks claims *"the metal prices it based that it based its analysis on and compared that with current metal prices to show that its forecast or economic assumptions are unrealistic."*

It argues that as a result the mine would not be able to pay for the long-term storage or treatment of the mine's wastewater.

<http://www.mininginnovationnews.com/2015/06/23/report-questions-the-safety-and-economics-of-proposed-ksm-mine/>