# Community Outreach in Exploration: An Example from Minnesota

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#### **Presentation Outline**

- Rio Tinto and Kennecott
- Context and history of the Tamarack Project
- Why is community outreach important during exploration?
- How did we get it wrong?
- How can we get it right?
- Social License
- How do we benefit?

#### Who we are

# KENNECOTT RioTinto

Kennecott is wholly owned by Rio Tinto. Kennecott has been operating in North America for over 100 years.

- We are the second largest mining company in the world.
- We employ approximately 55,000 people in over 40 countries
- Wherever we operate, safety is our most important value
- Sustainable development is at the heart of our business

Rio Tinto takes a long-term, responsible approach to mining.

#### Where we operate

at December 2016



#### North America activities

at December 2016



#### Tamarack, Minnesota: a greenfield nickelcopper exploration project



# The most critical piece of information was publically funded geoscience information

Minnesota state high resolution airborne magnetic survey



RioTinto

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Tamarack Project Timeline	
2000	State mineral leases acquired
2001	First geophysical surveys
2002	Drilling begins
2002- 2008	Drilling continues, though usually for just a few months each year
2006	County Commission denies key permit; community engagement intensifies
2008	Massive sulfide deposits of nickel and copper drilled
2008- present	Exploration continues
2014	Talon Metals signs agreement to earn in to the project
2017	Winter drilling program
	Winter anning program



The sulfuric acid and heavy metal residues that occur immediately continue to leach into the soil and water for generations after the mining is completed

# Hazards of sulfide mining

#### **Dear Neighbor:**

ALL RESIDENTS OF THE BIG SANDY WATERSHED SHOULD BE VERY CONCERNED! We recently received the attached notice of a hearing to rezone Farm, Residential, Open and Shoreland properties alongside Douglas and Nelson lakes with a Conditional Use Permit for mineral exploration activities. Both of these are natural environment lakes that empty into the Big Sandy Watershed.

Kennecott Mining and Exploration Company is in the 4th stage of mineral exploration on these properties. The next stage would be mining the Nickel/Copper/Gold/Zinc and other minerals they have discovered.

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#### How do we get it wrong?

- Risks are increasingly not just from the technical issues (the "hazards") but from perception ("outrage")
- Risk = Hazard + Outrage (Peter Sandman)
- If we leave a vacuum of information, bad examples will define us.
- We're aware of how the industry has changed – but in too many instances, we are defined by legacy issues.
- And some of these aren't legacy issues – recent incidents at Mt.
  Polley and Samarco are on many peoples' minds.
- The best way to minimize risk and maximize opportunities – is to be transparent and proactive.



# C.U.P. denied

BY DENNIS MEYER Staff Writer

At 4:00 Monday afternoon, May 15, the Aitkin County Planning Commission, chaired by Gordon Prickett, sat in session to hear a number of requests for **Conditional Use Permits.** As usual, other Planning Commission board members Gene Kelling, Tom Christianson, Nancy Eddy and Reggie Lee were also in attendance. Unusual was that the meeting took place in Courtroom 1 and the attendance was more than 100 interested citizens.

#### Getting it wrong is costly



Chart from report Conflict Translates Environmental and Social Risk into Business Costs

#### How can we get it right? Engagement – and involvement

- Communication listen, learn, and respond
- Understand the big and "little" issues
  - Economy, unemployment and education
  - Local workforce, local spend
  - Access to information
- Seek common goals such as economic benefit and environmental protections



Jenny Koester, a geology graduate student at the University of Minnesota Duluth, glues a section of shattered drill core back together at the Kennecott Exploration Company's field office in Tanaarack. The company is exploring for copper and nickel deposits in Carlton and Aitkin Counties.

**EXPLORATION** | Company has opened laboratory doors to public

#### Change is possible

"It made a world of difference when the people from Kennecott became more visible. We found out that they were not aliens trying to destroy and pollute our water and land. We were able to better understand what they were looking for and what they were doing, rather than believing it was all a big secret."



#### How do we maintain our license to operate?

- It starts with respect and communication.
- We treat community engagement as a key part of our exploration activity.
- We provide good information about exploration over, and over, and over. We have an open door policy, and do core shed visits and drill site visits frequently.
- We're honest and try not to raise expectations. More than 99% of exploration projects fail! We can't keep promising jobs which may never come.
- But we can involve people we hire locally, buy locally, and attend community meetings and events.
- We try to include stakeholders in decisions often a little input goes a long way.

#### How do companies benefit from engagement?

- Creates a sustained ability to operation and develop new projects.
- Increases efficiency and reduces costs.
- Avoids likelihood of a high-profile crisis.
- Builds enduring value to shareholders and stakeholders.
- Companies that are regarded as socially responsible may more easily be able to recruit local people and other qualified employees.
- Better relationships and trust with the communities you operate in.

## Geology of Tamarack

- Intrusive complex about 12 miles long by 2 miles wide.
- There are no outcrops so we rely on geophysics to identify drill targets.
- Mineralization is hosted in peridotite.
- We believe it is associated with the Mid Continent Rift that occurred ~1.1 billion years ago
  - We are currently focusing on defining boundaries of the resource.
- The deposit was discovered by the team who found the Eagle Mine which is currently in production in the UP of Michigan and is operated by Lundin Mining.
- We're still drilling and moving the project forward.





### Questions?

