

Council has some concerns about proposed gold mine

METRO HALIFAX

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Acadian Mining Corporation wants to restart gold mining 90 kilometres northeast of Halifax, but government officials want answers to their concerns first.

Acadian hopes to extract 400 tonnes of gold-bearing rock per day from the Tangier underground mine. Its environmental assessment was granted conditional approval by the province in December, but HRM staff aren't satisfied.

Regional council will vote tonight on whether to send a letter to the province outlining its concerns. These include:

- No quantification of present or future contamination of the mill site.
- Mine water, which could include arsenic, potentially draining into Tiger Lake. A brook connected to the lake runs near homes that depend on wells.
- Exposed waste rock piles, which can leach arsenic, "probably" draining into Copper Lake, which is partially surrounded with homes using wells and is less than 100 metres from an elementary school.
- Noise and vibration from underground blasting close to homes.