

Ballot Measure 4

Bill Providing For Regulation Of Water Quality

BALLOT LANGUAGE

This bill imposes two water quality standards on new large scale metallic mineral mining operations in Alaska. The first standard does not allow such a mining operation to release into water a toxic pollutant that will adversely affect human health or the life cycle of salmon. The second standard does not allow such a mining operation to store mining wastes and tailings that could release sulfuric acid, other acids, dissolved metals or other toxic pollutants that could adversely affect water that is used by humans or by salmon. The bill defines a large scale metallic mineral mining operation to mean a metallic mineral mining operation that is in excess of 640 acres in size. The bill defines toxic pollutants to include substances that will cause death and disease in humans and fish, and includes a list of substances identified as toxic pollutants under federal law.

Should this initiative become law?

Yes

No

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY SUMMARY

The Act prohibits the state from issuing permits for some mining projects. The Act applies only to mines larger than 640 acres. The Act applies only to mines that have not yet received permits. Permits may not be provided for mines that release pollutants into the water that affect humans or salmon. Permits may not be provided for mines that store or dispose of waste material that could release pollutants into water used by humans or salmon.