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MAYOR BIETER ASKS CITY COUNCIL TO JOIN HIM IN
OPPOSING
CYANIDE GOLD MINE NEAR ATLANTA

Mayor David Bieter today announced his opposition to a proposed cyanide heap leach gold mining operation near the headwaters of the Boise River and asked the Boise City Council to pass a formal resolution against the mine.

Standing on the Greenbelt near Park Center Boulevard in East Boise, the mayor described the Boise River as “the water of life” for the Treasure Valley and declared the proposed gold mine “an intolerable threat to the river, the environment, and the citizens of Boise.”

“It’s our duty to protect this river for our community and our children,” the mayor said. “In opposing this mine, we are taking a stand for Boise’s livability.”

Atlanta Gold Corporation Inc., a Canadian-owned subsidiary, has proposed construction of an open-pit mine and cyanide heap leach facility near the town of Atlanta in Elmore County, about 60 miles northeast of Boise. Mining supplies, including sodium cyanide, blasting agents and up to 8.5 million gallons of diesel fuel, would be

transported to the mine site on a series of unpaved roads that parallel the Boise River.

Mayor Bieter said that more than two years of studying the proposal led him to conclude that the mining company's plans for protecting the environment are grossly inadequate, given the enormity of the threat. Despite the mining company's assertions to the contrary, open pit cyanide heap leach mining has an abysmal environmental record not only in the western United States but around the world, the mayor said.

The Boise Fire Department's Hazardous Materials ("HazMat") Team serves as the principal responder to fuel and chemical spills and situations involving dangerous materials throughout Southwest Idaho. Mayor Bieter said he does not believe Boise residents should be forced to foot the bill in case of an accident involving the mine.

"This river is an irreplaceable part of this city. It's where we fish; it's where we float; it's where our eagles and herons nest; more and more, it's where we get our drinking water," the mayor said. "I have concluded that the Atlanta Gold project is simply a terrible idea."

The mayor's proposed resolution, which will be considered by the Boise City Council on March 6, would place the council formally on record as strongly opposing the development of the cyanide heap leach mining operation near Atlanta. The resolution also calls upon the U.S. Forest Service

and the State of Idaho to hold the Atlanta Gold project to the highest operational, financial, transportation and environmental standards allowed by law; and urges other Southwest Idaho local governments to go on record in opposition to the mine.

The City of Boise has no regulatory authority over the mine proposal, which is currently under review by the U.S. Forest Service and Idaho state agencies. However, City of Boise officials have received more than 2,000 letters, postcards and petitions from interested citizens, almost all opposed to the mine. A "town hall" meeting in November, called by Mayor Bieter to discuss the mine proposal, attracted more than 300 people, most of them critical of the mine proposal.

Mayor Bieter has said his goal is to make Boise the most livable city in the country, and he has launched several initiatives to ensure a clean and healthy environment. Under the mayor's leadership, Boise has achieved "Clean Cities" designation by the U.S. Department of Energy for encouraging use of alternative fuels. And last summer, Boise became the first city in Idaho to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to limit greenhouse emissions.

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