

	Resolution No.
BY THE COUNCIL:	BISTERFELDT, CLEGG, EBERLE, JORDAN, TIBBS AND SHEALY

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOISE, IDAHO, OPPOSING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CYANIDE HEAP LEACH MINING OPERATION NEAR THE HEADWATERS OF THE BOISE RIVER; CALLING UPON REGULATORY AND PERMITTING AGENCIES TO HOLD THE MINING PROJECT TO THE HIGHEST OPERATIONAL, FINANCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Atlanta Gold Corporation, Inc. (“Atlanta Gold”), a wholly owned subsidiary of Twin Mining Corporation of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, has submitted a plan of operation for an open-pit mine and cyanide heap leach facility 1.5 miles south of the town of Atlanta in Elmore County, Idaho, about 60 miles northeast of Boise; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Gold project would occupy approximately 370 acres on Boise National Forest lands and approximately 80 acres of additional intermingled private lands in drainages that feed the Middle Fork of the Boise River; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Gold project would consist of two open pits, with ore from the pits subjected to on-site crushing and heap leaching with dilute cyanide solution, producing about 500,000 ounces of gold during an operational life of seven to 10 years and 35 million to 42 million tons of waste rock that would be retained at the mine site in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, supplies needed for the mining operation, including sodium cyanide, other process chemicals, cement, blasting agents, and up to 8.5 million gallons of diesel fuel, would be transported to the mine site primarily by State Highway 21 and a series of unpaved Forest Service roads that parallel the North Fork of the Boise River and the Middle Fork of the Boise River as well as various tributaries to the river; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Gold project is subject to federal, state, and local government review, and approval by the U.S. Forest Service under the 1872 Mining Law and in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and to regulation and permitting by the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, State of Idaho Department of Lands, and State of Idaho Department of Water Resources; and

WHEREAS, under the requirements of the 1872 Mining Law and subsequent laws and regulations, the Forest Service cannot deny Atlanta Gold’s proposal to conduct mining operations, but has a duty to consider a reasonable range of alternatives and to require monitoring and mitigation for environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Boise has no direct regulatory or permitting authority over the Atlanta Gold project but has a vested interest in the mining operation because of its potential negative effects on the City, its environment and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on November 15, 2006, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Boise hosted an open public meeting attended by an estimated 300 citizens at City Hall and an unknown number of television viewers, with almost all of those testifying expressing opposition to the Atlanta Gold project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Boise has received more than 2,000 letters, cards, petitions, e-mails and telephone calls from citizens regarding the Atlanta Gold project, nearly all of which express opposition; and

WHEREAS, appointed and elected officials of the City of Boise have gone on record with concerns that Atlanta Gold's operations plans are insufficient to determine whether the project will create certain environmental impacts; whether long-term risks are adequately addressed by proposed requirements for permanent closure, short- and long-term monitoring, remediation and bonding; and whether alternative plans would result in lower risk to human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, 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, and would likely be called to action in case of an accident involving hazardous materials related to Atlanta Gold transportation and operations; and because the costs of providing these essential services are not fully reimbursed by other jurisdictions, the citizens of Boise must cover these costs;

WHEREAS, the Boise River is the Treasure Valley's most important and irreplaceable natural asset, providing critical wildlife and fish habitat, a resource for economic development, irrigation for agriculture, a wide range of recreational opportunities, more than 20 percent of the City's current water supply and the likely source for future City and Treasure Valley's drinking water supply, and the definitive icon of Boise's status as one of the most livable cities in the country; and

WHEREAS, open pit cyanide heap-leach mining has an abysmal environmental record not only in the western United States but around the world, and that cyanide heap-leach mining in Montana has resulted in substantial short- and long-term negative economic, human health, and environmental effects, and that due to these negative effects the people of the state of Montana have banned cyanide heap leach mining as an acceptable mining practice within the state; and

WHEREAS, Atlanta Gold's current proposed transportation, mining and heap-leach operations in the Boise River watershed contain insufficient provisions and protection for the environment and pose an unacceptable long-term risk to the river's health, and thus to the continued well-being of our environment, our economy, and our citizens; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Boise City Council, charged by law with protecting the health, safety, and quality of life of its citizens:

1. Strongly opposes the development of the cyanide heap leach mining operation near Atlanta;
2. Calls upon the U.S. Forest Service and the State of Idaho to hold the Atlanta Gold project to the highest operational, financial, environmental and transportation standards allowed by law; and
3. Urges other Southwest Idaho municipal and county governments whose citizens are threatened by this project to go on record in solid opposition.

ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Boise, Idaho, this (date) day of (month),
200_.

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Boise, Idaho this (date) day of (month),
200_.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Annette P. Mooney
City Clerk

David H. Bieter
Mayor