Lundin Mining holds community gathering

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MINNEAPOLIS (KSTP) — Lundin Mining held a brief meeting to discuss community financial aid at the Minneapolis office.

This is the third year the company has been doing this, said Tom Brandes, Senior Advisor of Communications and Media for Lundin.

"It's really just to get out to all of the different communities between Borrego and Marquise and give them an update on the mines and what's happening, what people can expect over the next year," he said.

Article Phrases

The two main issues addressed by community members at the forum were somewhat expected, the potential environmental issues were the main issue to the community members in Big Lake and the mine itself, the mine's troubles running along Marquette County Road 50.

Jenna Dingell, a resident of Big Lake and a former registered nurse, said that the environmental impact was her biggest concern about the mine.

"Reports about the mine and the water issues will be here," she said. "It's only a matter of time before there is a disaster and the welfare of heavy metals.

"The community's concerns over the situation is not to be overlooked by the mine. It has been a highly debated and controversial issue over the mine's impact on the community and our desire for clarification.

According to Brandes, these concerns are a key part of why these forums begin in the first place.

"We are dedicated to the Department of Environmental Quality," Brandes said. "We are also dedicated to the community and we are working with them to make sure their needs are met.

"We are not doing this to mandate anything, we are doing this to help the community and make sure their needs are met.

Matt Johnson, an Environmental Affairs Manager for the Eagle mine, discussed the truck route issues, stating that the final alignment of the road is to be done as soon as possible and that all the mines are on the lookout for this.

"The trucks are the issue," he said. "We are not doing this to mandate anything, we are doing this to help the community and make sure their needs are met.

"I think the mine is better at doing what they need to do, it is all about the mine itself," he said.

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