Sisson Mine Public Consultation
RE: Proposed Amendments to MMER
Notes from Jim Emberger
March 15, 2018

- Huge turnout - several hundred. Because there was virtually no official PR, beside your CBC interview, most people were there after hearing about it from local networks and friends, almost at the last minute. I think this shows local people are really tuned into the issue.
- Diverse crowd - young, old, indigenous, settlers, common folk, people with advanced degrees. Reminded me of shale gas crowds. Very passionate - huge cheering for indigenous statements.
- One sided. Earlier meetings always had a division between we tree-huggers and 'jobs' guys. Last night some folks were saying that we need jobs, but not at that cost. If there were jobs guys there last night, they kept a low profile. As I said - feelings ran high. Many people stayed to the very end - even when the 'science' guys were talking pretty high-level.
- Sisson still does not have its act together. Still no financial info & when they explained their process for how they chose the tailings pond over other methods, it was apparent that they really didn't consider other options & that the govt. either was complicit, or that the industry hood-winked the government with a rigged evaluation process.
- The feds who were there were taken aback, I believe, by the crowd, its attitude, and the issues raised. No one was there from provincial govt that I could ascertain. Certainly, LeBlanc's claim that the project would begin this spring was put to rest. Lots of outstanding issues. Also, we found out that the prov. govt had extended deadlines for meeting a number of conditions - but the public was not informed of that. That is something maybe you could follow up on.
- Just thought I would give you my impressions in the hope they might be useful in your evaluation and planning.