



## NEWS RELEASE

January 2, 2024

### ***For immediate release:***

The Keep Coxheath Clean Association is a non-profit organization that was formed by a group of concerned citizens in the summer of 2023. The group came together after learning of a junior exploration company (Nova Copper Inc.) that is seeking to purchase municipal land in Beechmont/Coxheath from the CBRM for the eventual purpose of developing an open-pit copper/metals mine atop the Coxheath Hills (in close proximity to homes with wells, critical watersheds, and more).

With community support, the organization arranged for an independent scientific study on the appropriateness of this type of development in this particular location. Dr. Steven H. Emerman, world-renowned geophysicist and mining consultant, has provided a detailed report on the matter. His conclusion is clear: "...it is highly likely that a Nova Copper mine would result in environmental contamination." Dr. Emerman goes on to state that "The recommendation of the report is that the request for purchase of CBRM surplus land by Nova Copper should not be granted."

The full report is available on our website along with a brief summary of the findings.

[https://www.keepcoxheathclean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Cape\\_Breton\\_Emerman\\_Report.pdf](https://www.keepcoxheathclean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Cape_Breton_Emerman_Report.pdf)

### **Statement from Keep Coxheath Clean:**

"This report validates our deep concerns about the proposed mining project. It was essential to get an expert analysis on the risks of an open-pit mine atop the Coxheath Hills, and they are indeed great. We implore our elected representatives and members of the public to read this report and inform themselves about the true cost and potentially devastating consequences of allowing this mine to go ahead." Laura MacNeil, Director, Keep Coxheath Clean Association

### **For more information, please contact:**

Telephone: 902-322-7742

Email: [info@keepcoxheathclean.org](mailto:info@keepcoxheathclean.org)

Website: [www.KeepCoxheathClean.org](http://www.KeepCoxheathClean.org)

Laura MacNeil, Cheryl MacInnis, Rubin Binder, Erin Thompson & Andy Pittman  
Directors, Keep Coxheath Clean Association

## **Summary of report:**

The December 2023 report by Dr. Steven H. Emerman recommends that Nova Copper Inc.'s request to purchase CBRM land in Beechmont/Coxheath should not be granted. The report explains that mining for copper in this area poses a risk of pollution and damage to the water, land, and air, which could harm residents and other species (including at-risk and endangered). It is highly unlikely that a sulfide ore copper mine in this location could operate and/or close without contamination. In fact, Dr. Emerman cited evidence that shows that there has never been a sulfide ore mine in North America that has operated and/or closed without environmental contamination.

Of particular concern is that the annual precipitation in this area is nearly double that of other comparable mining sites. Higher precipitation increases the likelihood of environmental contamination from mining. The report also discusses how mining can hamper other economic activities and impact the economic value of wetlands and other ecosystems.

Dr. Emerman emphasizes that the people of the CBRM have the right to decide for themselves whether any possible benefits from copper mining outweigh the environmental risks. Further analysis has concluded that the proposed mine could only produce 0.0022% of the world's copper production, so it could not be regarded as making a substantial contribution to solving an alleged global copper shortage.

Detailed analysis, references and conclusions can be found in the report.

The author, Dr. Steven H. Emerman, has a B.S. in Mathematics from The Ohio State University, M.A. in Geophysics from Princeton University, and Ph.D. in Geophysics from Cornell University. He has 31 years of experience teaching hydrology and geophysics, including teaching as a Fulbright Professor in Ecuador and Nepal, and has over 70 peer-reviewed publications in these fields. Dr. Emerman is now a consultant specializing in evaluating the environmental impacts of mining for mining companies, as well as governmental and nongovernmental organizations.