

Developers To Appeal Mine Ruling

Developers of Sunro mine near Jordan River will appeal last week's ruling by the provincial Pollution Control Branch which blocks the mine from discharging up to a million gallons of slurry into Juan de Fuca Strait.

E. C. Dobell, vice-president of Crownex International, said today that as well as launching an appeal "we have made approaches to various government offices."

Asked who had been approached, he said "mainly (Premier) Bennett."

After word of the ruling last week Dobell said the fate of the mine was in the hands of the provincial government.

He blamed the government for being interested only in "the emotional claims of the multitude" and accused it of bringing "politics, not facts," into the matter.



Crownex is one of the companies involved in the reactivation of the old Cowichan copper mine, now called Sunro and managed by Dison Development Ltd.

Wording of the announcement from the PCB last week on Dison's application to discharge mine effluent hinted that two government departments opposed the proposal. It had also been fought by some of the people living at Jordan River, conservationists and commercial fishermen.

Dison planned on discharging the effluent, 80 per cent water and 20 per cent crushed rock, into the strait from a pipe just below the low-tide mark.

Meanwhile, some of the 50 men laid off by Dison have been circulating a petition which calls for reconsideration of the discharge application. About 100 people have signed so far.