

in the Rana Fjord north of Mo I Rana. The mine has dumped more than 500,000 tonnes per year into the fjord.³⁷

- ▶ Sibelco Nordic dumps hundreds of thousands of tonnes of tailings per year from mining of nepheline syenite on the island of Stjernøya into a fjord in Finnmark.³⁸ At Elnesvågen in Møre og Romsdal, the Hustadmarmor processed limestone mine owned by the Omya Group dumps hundreds of thousands of tonnes per year into Frænfjorden. The Skaland Graphite mine of Leonhard Nilsen & Sønner Eiendom AS on the island of Senja in Troms also dumps tailings into a fjord.³⁹
- ▶ At Førdefjord in western Norway, Nordic Mining is planning to dump 3 million tonnes per year of tailings from its Engebøfjellet titanium mine into another salmon-bearing fjord.
- ▶ The Nussir ASA company is planning to dump tailings from its underground copper mine into

PHOTO: GWIKI COMMONS



the Repparfjorden, another

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ABOVE: Kirkenes Harbor,
 Finnmark, Norway.

national salmon area.
 The tailings would affect
 important habitat for salmon and other fish.⁴⁰

SENUNU BAY, INDONESIA



SINCE 2000, the Batu Hijau copper-gold mine on Sumbawa Island has dumped tailings into Senunu Bay (Indian Ocean) via a pipeline that extends 3.4 km offshore to a depth of 120 meters.⁴¹ The mine is owned and operated by the US Newmont Mining Corp., with minority stakes held by Indonesian and Japanese shareholders. The ocean pipeline broke at least once after only 13 months of operation, dumping tailings into an area with coral reefs.⁴² The Indonesian environmental group, WALHI, has conducted tests that show reduced fish populations and water pollution between 2006 and 2010; the mine dumps over 40 million tonnes of tailings into the ocean every year.⁴³ Because of such contamination concerns, many people have protested the mine and asked for compensation for the pollution, and local governments have sought to put stricter limits on dumping.⁴⁴ In May 2011, the local West Sumbawa government

appealed to the Indonesian government to not renew the mine's permit to dump tailings into the ocean.⁴⁵ The national government, after approving a new permit with a few additional conditions, now faces a lawsuit from civil society organizations that are concerned about the dumping.⁴⁶

The mine has also come under criticism for a tailings spill from a pipe on land, for destroying rainforest in an Important Bird Area, for seeking permission to expand the mine and waste rock piles by over 70 acres into a protected forest and Key Biodiversity Area, for failing to report a major pit failure and cleanup costs to shareholders, for overtime rate disputes that led to strikes, and for its exploration and expansion plans at Elang/Dodo Rinti.⁴⁷ In spite of these controversies and the impacts of the mine, Newmont is proceeding with its expansion plans and in June 2011 signed a loan agreement with a consortium of banks including Goldman Sachs Lending Partners LLC and BNP Paribas SA.⁴⁸