

*Protecting  
Communities  
and the  
Environment*

# THIS CALLS FOR MORE THAN A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR

1872 Mining Law Fact #3:



**It's pretty tough to swallow the poison pill of toxic mine waste—  
no matter what method you use.**

**The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rates hardrock mining as the nation's top toxic polluter—based on pollution levels reported by the industry itself. Hardrock mining releases more toxics than *any* other industry, according to the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory.**

**Yet there are no environmental standards for hardrock mining under the 1872 Mining Law. Multinational mining companies released 3.4 billion pounds of toxic chemicals in the U.S. in 2000—including 454 million pounds of arsenic, 308 million pounds of lead and 3 million pounds of mercury.**

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***Part of a series on the 1872 Mining Law, highlighting impacts on taxpayers,  
community health, and water resources—and  
the need for meaningful reform.***

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