

*Protecting  
Communities  
and the  
Environment*

# NAME YOUR POISON, PARDNER

**1872 Mining Law Fact # 22:**



**No matter how stiff your saloon order, it'll never be as dangerous as cyanide. A human can be killed by a mere teaspoon of 2% cyanide solution.**

**Massive quantities of this deadly poison—2,681,256 pounds per year—are released by multinational mining corporations, potentially endangering water supplies vital to American communities.**

**Residential drinking water was compromised by the spill of 52,000 gallons of cyanide from a Montana gold mine. The state's voters later banned cyanide in a statewide referendum.**

**But mining companies aren't willing to pay for less dangerous, cyanide-free methods that would help protect community health and clean water in other states.**

**Yet citizens and communities are left totally unprotected by the 1872 mining law. When it comes to belying up with cyanide, your odds are better in an old fashioned shoot-out.**

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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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