



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL  
ADMINISTRATOR

NOV 14 2012

President David Kutch  
George Tribal Council  
5313 Arctic Blvd, Suite 104  
Anchorage, Alaska 99518

Dear President Kutch:

Thank you for your October 9<sup>th</sup> letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson. The EPA appreciates hearing your concern regarding the cleanup at Red Devil Mine and your recommendation that the site be placed on the National Priorities List. The EPA has been actively involved in the oversight of the cleanup performed by the Bureau of Land Management at the mine since June 2010. As you noted in your letter, this oversight has been done without an agreement that formalizes the roles and responsibilities of the EPA, the BLM and Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation.

To resolve this issue, the EPA has entered into negotiations with BLM to develop a mutually agreeable document that will clarify the roles and responsibilities of all three parties. We anticipate that having such a tri-party agreement will allow cleanup at the Red Devil Mine to occur under an alternative process equivalent to the process that would be used if the site was placed on the National Priorities List. The adoption of, and adherence to such a tri-party agreement, will provide an efficient, cost-effective, and transparent path forward. As you can appreciate the development of such an agreement can take considerable time but all parties are in agreement that such a document is needed for the Red Devil Mine cleanup. We will continue to keep you informed of the progress on the agreement.

If you have any additional questions or concerns please contact me at (206) 553-1234 or you may have someone on your staff contact Matt Wilkening, EPA's project manager for the Red Devil Mine, at (208) 378-5760. We appreciate your concern regarding the cleanup at Red Devil Mine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. McLerran".

Dennis J. McLerran *for*  
Regional Administrator