

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303
Post Office Box 111800
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1800
Phone: 907-465-5066
Fax: 907-465-5070
www.dec.state.ak.us

July 17, 2009

Ms. Michelle Pirzadeh
Acting Regional Administrator, Region 10
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

Re: United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Salt Chuck Mine
United States Bureau of Land Management, Red Devil Mine

Dear Ms. Pirzadeh:

This letter is in regards to the proposed placement of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service's Salt Chuck Mine and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Red Devil Mine on the National Priorities List (NPL). Over the past months, we have conducted outreach efforts to other state and federal agencies, industry, communities, tribes, environmental organizations, and other interested organizations. We wanted to ensure that stakeholders understood that NPL listing was under consideration.

The State of Alaska would like both sites cleaned up in an efficient and timely manner and views that as a federal responsibility. In the case of Salt Chuck Mine, although some of the cleanup would occur on tidelands that are now state-owned, the mining activity predates statehood. For this reason, the State of Alaska does not anticipate responsibility for cleanup or long-term monitoring costs.

While the State of Alaska would not object, we consider the question of whether to place the Salt Chuck Mine and the Red Devil Mine on the NPL a matter between federal land management and federal environmental agencies. Should EPA decide to list the sites, DEC anticipates a substantial and meaningful oversight role consistent with state and federal law.

Thank you for EPA's coordination and efforts working with DEC on these sites. Regardless of EPA's NPL listing decisions, Alaska is committed to working closely with EPA and the federal land managers to properly address the threats posed to area resources and users.

Sincerely,



Larry Hartig
Commissioner

cc: Mike Nizich, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Daniel S. Sullivan, Attorney General, Department of Law
Cora Crome, Special Staff Assistant, Office of the Governor
Tom Irwin, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner, Department of Fish & Game