

Red Dog Mine Draft Risk Assessment Meeting with Subsistence Committee April 19, 2005

Questions and comments raised by the subsistence committee on April 19, 2005 held at Red Dog Mine regarding the presentation on the findings of the risk assessment of the fugitive dust issue from the port to the mine given by Scott Shock.

Committee members present: Roland Booth (committee assistant), Wendell Booth, Thurston Booth, Roland Ashby, Joe Swan and Oran Knox. On teleconference was Rosie Barr (NANA representative), and for one section regarding an Arctic char study performed by Enoch Shiedt, Enoch was teleconferenced into the meeting.

Teck Cominco representative: Jim Kulas
Exponent presenter: Shock Shock
DEC attendees: Rich Sundet and Lindsay Smith

Comment - What studies have been done on mice along the Delong Mountain Transportation System (DMTS)?

Response - Kulas – Scott Shock will address this later in the presentation.

Comment –Thurston Booth - After blasting at the mine, there is brown dust blowing from the mine to the northwest. Also have seen the same skinny and no tail foxes in the plume area.

Response – Kulas - We have modeled the blast dust and there has been no indication that the dust exceeds our permit regulatory levels at the ambient air boundary. Also, the brown color may be due to diesel emissions from vehicles or equipment. Cold weather inversions accumulate the nitrous oxide in the exhaust in very visible layers.

Thurston- You may want to shoot some foxes and then Teck Cominco could analyze them.

Comment – unknown (Thurston?) – What is done with the waste oil?

Response – Kulas - The waste oil is collected, mixed with diesel fuel and burned in the generators for energy recovery.

Comment - Joe-Jerry Norton saw a whitefish dead and frozen in a stream and drank the water from that stream and got diarrhea the next day.

Response – Kulas - If you can get the fish, I will send it to Fish and Game for analysis or we can make arrangements for you to send it directly to Fish and Game. [**Additional Note:** I subsequently talked to Jerry about the fish and he said that he didn't have anything to look at anymore. I encouraged him to make sure that in the future that the fish were sent to someone for study and that Red Dog would assist with that if he wanted us to).]

Summary - Shiedt discussing his trout study: No pathologist has evaluated the draft report findings yet, but the general opinion is that the information is not alarming. I am still awaiting a funding request that I made for \$2-3,000 to translate the results into layman language. The report will not be done for about four (4) weeks after the study is funded for completion. He noted that his contact (Rose Barr with NANA) was concerned that there are no similar studies elsewhere in Alaska for comparison of data. Enoch thought that there were at least two other such studies that have been performed in Alaska.

Comment – Swan - There are small fishes in the coastal lagoons.

Response – Shock - No fish were found in the lagoons near the port that Exponent sampled. To be most protective, the effort was focused on looking at lagoons closest to the port where concentrations are highest. The lagoons near the port are not connected to the ocean, and they freeze solid in the winter. If metals concentrations had been found to be elevated then samples would have been collected further away to perhaps the lagoon that Joe was referencing which was closer to Kivalina.

Comment - Wendell Booth and Thurston Booth - The caribou along the DMTS road have no or little fat, skinny along the ribs and back. Also, caribou used to be around here at the mine area, but now they are migrating to the north around Buckland. Because of this concern, Thurston stated that he no longer hunts by the mine.

Response – Kulas - There have been no reports by the truck drivers of seeing any caribou that have been skinny.

Response – Swan - There may have been a caribou die-off because of high snow levels.

Response – Thurston Booth - We told you about the caribou problems before.

Response – Kulas - We will continue to do more caribou studies and will pursue other areas if we have some other information to go by.

Comment - Joe - Did you go beyond the haul road to investigate?

Response – Shock - We studied areas surrounding the mine, the road, and the port, including the marine environment.

Sundet discussed DEC's perspective on overseeing contaminated sites and the Red Dog Mine risk assessment, and the risk assessment process.

At 3:00 p.m. Kulas asked for comments and explained the next steps in the risk assessment process for Red Dog Mine.

Comment – Knox - How often do you change out the dust collectors to monitor the air?

Response - Kulas provided a response on the sampling schedule for the collectors.

[**Additional Note:** mechanical samplers (i.e., tapered element oscillating microbalance or TEOM samplers) are continuous data recorders to measure particulate matter – no

Notes of comments and initial responses with Subsistence Committee meeting, April 19, 2005 on Red Dog Mine draft risk assessment

change out are necessary. The dust fall jar samplers are collected on a schedule that varies from one month to three months depending on the program].

Comment - General concern on whales.

Response – Kulas - Noted that Teck Cominco does not have much information on whales including Belugas. [**Additional Note:** periodically we conduct marine mammal surveys at the port to determine population density, we are also planning a ugruk (i.e., bearded seal) study on animals harvested by Kivalina. This study will analyze for metals in the ugruk.

The meeting ended around 3:15 p.m.