

**PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
USIBELLI COAL MINE, INC.**

WISHBONE HILL COAL MINING AND PROCESSING OPERATION

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) has made a preliminary decision to approve Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.'s (Usibelli's) application for Air Quality Control Minor Permit AQ1227MSS04 for the Wishbone Hill Coal Mining and Processing Operation.

Applicant: Usibelli Coal Mine Inc., 634 South Bailey Street, Suite 204, Palmer, AK 99645

Location: 8 Miles North of Palmer, AK; Latitude 61.7367 and Longitude 148.9514

Activity: Usibelli's application is classified under: 18 AAC 50.502(c)(1) to establish a new coal mining and processing operation, 18 AAC 50.502(b)(3) for a rock crusher with a rated capacity over five tons per hour, and 18 AAC 50.502(b)(5) for a coal preparation plant.

Emissions: PTE for this source is 67.8 tpy NO_x, 9.4 tpy CO, 7.6 tpy PM-2.5, 35.4 tpy PM-10, 0.1 tpy SO₂, and 0.7 tpy VOC.

ADEC Preliminary Review: Based on review of the application, ADEC drafted a preliminary permit decision for this project under AS 46.14 and 18 AAC 50.

Available Information: Copies of the permit application, ADEC's draft permit, and technical analysis report (TAR) are available at <http://dec.alaska.gov/air/ap/WishboneHill.htm> or contact Aaron Simpson at (907) 465-5123. The preliminary permit and TAR are also available at ADEC's website at:

<http://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Air/airtoolsweb/AirPermitsApprovalsAndPublicNotices/>.

Opportunity for Public Participation:

Notice is also given that any interested person may present written statements relevant to the draft documents within 30 days after the first publication date. ADEC will consider all comments received and make any changes ADEC finds beneficial or necessary to assure compliance with 18 AAC 50 or State Law. ADEC will issue a final decision to issue or deny the permit after the close of the public comment period.

ADEC specifically invites the public to comment regarding a computer modeling technique used by Usibelli to estimate their one-hour nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) air quality impacts. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lists approved modeling methods in their *Guideline on Air Quality Models* (Guideline). Usibelli used an NO₂ modeling approach, the *Ozone Limiting Method* (OLM), which is listed in the Guideline as an allowed technique for estimating annual average NO₂ impacts, for estimating their annual average and 1-hour NO₂ impacts. EPA has issued guidance regarding the use of OLM for purposes of modeling 1-hour NO₂ impacts, but they have not yet gone through the regulatory process of adopting this approach in their Guideline. The use of OLM for purposes of estimating 1-hour NO₂ impacts must therefore be highlighted in the permit decision public notice.

The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to participate in this public process, please contact Deborah Pock at (907) 269-0291 or TDD Relay Service 1-800-770-8973/TTY or dial 711 by the close of the public comment period to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Please direct written statements or requests relevant to the proposed permit to Aaron Simpson by mail at PO Box 111800, Juneau, AK 99811, by facsimile at (907) 465-5129 or send e-mail to aaron.simpson@alaska.gov. Comments must be received by close of public comments period at 4:30 p.m. on **April 3, 2014**.

Publish: *Alaska Web*
Close of Public Comment Period: *4:30 P.M., April 3, 2014*