

Request for Public Comment on Draft DMTS Fugitive Dust Risk Assessment - Red Dog Mine

Elevated metals concentrations have previously been identified in tundra in areas surrounding the Red Dog Mine and the DeLong Mountains Regional Transportation System (DMTS), as a result of dust deposition. As part of the evaluation of dust that escapes during transport of ore at the Red Dog Mine, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is seeking public comment on the Draft DMTS Fugitive Dust Risk Assessment report. The risk assessment evaluates potential risk to human health and the environment from deposition of metals-bearing fugitive dust in areas around the DMTS port and road, and around the mine outside of the ambient air boundary. The area within the ambient air boundary includes the mine and is regulated by other DEC programs.

The Red Dog Mine operator, Teck Cominco Alaska Incorporated (TCAK), and the land owner (NANA), are studying the possible effects on people, plants and animals from zinc, lead and other metals in the dust created during ore transport. This risk assessment looks at how harmful these substances are and the ways living things might come in contact with them, such as through eating, drinking, breathing or touching.

The risk assessment process has several parts. First, a "Conceptual Site Model" was developed showing ways that humans and the environment may be exposed to chemicals (such as metals in the dust). Next, a risk assessment work plan was written outlining the methods used to determine the amount of chemicals they may be exposed to and the potential effects of that exposure. The work plan guides the overall risk assessment, and the risk assessment report provides the findings of the risk assessment study. The findings will be used to evaluate what additional actions may be needed to reduce risks.

DEC would like to hear from those concerned about issues related to the draft risk assessment report.

DEC in coordination with TCAK is hosting informal open houses at the following locations to discuss the risk assessment work and findings. At those meetings, representatives from DEC and TCAK will provide presentations. The locations and dates for the open houses are the following:

April 20 Kivalina joint City & IRA Meeting at 10:30am
April 20 Kivalina Village Meeting at 2pm
April 21 Noatak IRA meeting at 11 am
April 21 Noatak Village Meeting at 3pm (Noatak gym available after 3pm).

Public comment period extension: In response to requests for more review time, DEC has extended the public comment period on the risk assessment report an additional 45 days. The public **comment period**, which began on April 12, 2005, now **ends at 5:00**

p.m. on July 11, 2005. Written comments can be submitted to:

Rich Sundet, Project Manager, DEC, Contaminated Sites Program, 555 Cordova St., Anchorage, AK, phone: 907-269-7578, fax: 907-269-7649, or by e-mail at Rich_Sundet@dec.state.ak.us.

You can obtain copies of the draft risk assessment report on DEC's Homepage at www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/csp/sites/reddog.htm#info. Additional background information can be found at this site. Copies of the risk assessment report will be available for review at the DEC Anchorage office. Please contact Mr. Sundet at DEC to schedule a time to review the document. In Kivalina and Noatak, please contact your village IRA council to view a copy of the document. Please also contact Mr. Sundet if you have problems with accessing or reviewing the draft report on DEC's homepage.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in this process, please contact (907) 465-5040 to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.