

**DECISION RECORD
and
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

I. Decision:

It is my decision to permit Barrick Gold United States Inc. to sample and test vegetative materials, peat, on two parcels of public lands aggregating 35,000 acres near Crooked Creek, Alaska. Exploration will occur between February 15, 2007 and May 15, 2007, and will be conducted by helicopter.

II. Rationale for the Decision:

Barrick Gold United States Inc. is conducting a feasibility study to determine whether to develop a mine at Donlin Creek, Alaska. The mine site is located 12 miles north of Crooked Creek, Alaska.

The feasibility study includes identifying a power source for mine development and operation. Commercial power sources are not readily available in the area. The company is considering the use of a peat fired power plant to operate the mine and has identified two peat deposits on public lands near the mine site. The peat deposits must be evaluated for quantity and quality to determine whether they can meet the mine's energy needs. Regulations pertinent to the Materials Act of July 31, 1947 allow for the sampling and testing of the peat deposits. It is the Bureau of Land Management's policy to make public lands available for orderly and efficient development of alternative and renewable energy resources.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

IV. ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:

The proposed action will not significantly restrict Federal subsistence uses, decrease the abundance of federal subsistence resources, alter the distribution of federal subsistence resources, or limit qualified Federal subsistence user access from currently existing conditions. No further analysis is necessary at this time.

V. Adverse Energy Impact Compliance:

This action has been analyzed as required by Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2002-053 to determine if it will cause an adverse impact on energy development. The action will not have an adverse direct or indirect impact on energy development, production or distribution. The preparation of a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

- VI. Compliance and Monitoring Plan:
Mitigation measures have been set forth in the Environmental Assessment. Those measures are incorporated into the terms and conditions of documentation authorizing Barrick Gold United States Inc.'s explorations.

Gary Reimer
Anchorage Field Office Manager

February 9, 2007