



# Meeting Notes

Red Devil Mine Talking Circle  
Feb. 9, 2012 • Alaska Forum on the Environment

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*This document summarizes comment themes expressed by representatives from communities, agencies and other organizations during an informal session at the 2012 Alaska Forum on the Environment.*

## ATTENDEES

Communities: Verdene Morgan, Native Village of Aniak  
Gina McKindy, Native Village of Aniak  
Father Michael Fredericks, Chuathbaluk Traditional Council  
Annie Fredericks, Chuathbaluk Traditional Council  
Edna Beebe, Native Village of Eek  
Ole Lake, Hooper Bay  
Julia Dorris, Village of Kalskag  
Andrew Maud, Village of Kalskag  
Loreen Steeves, Village of Kalskag  
Billy Jean Stewart, Village of Kalskag  
Moses White, Sr., Kasigluk Traditional Council  
Cauline Nicholai, Kasigluk Traditional Council  
Michael Martin, Kasigluk Traditional Council  
Richard Long, Organized Village of Kwethluk  
Patricia David, Organized Village of Kwethluk  
Miska Waskey, Lime Village Traditional Council  
Fred Bobby, Lime Village Traditional Council  
Farron Bobby, Lime Village Traditional Council  
Lisa Gusty, Lime Village Traditional Council  
Dave Cannon, Native Village of Napaimute  
George Alexie, Nondalton Tribal Council  
Nancy Delkittie, Nondalton Tribal Council  
Harry Karshekoff, Nondalton Tribal Council  
John Oscar, Kuskokwim River Watershed Council  
Lucille Kalistook, Kuskokwim River Watershed Council  
Adrian Boelens, Kuskokwim River Watershed Council  
Joey Billy, Kuskokwim River Watershed Council  
Don Wedll, Association of Village Council Presidents  
Margaret Nickerson, Nelson Island Consortium

Agencies: Jim Fincher, Bureau of Land Management  
Mike McCrum, Bureau of Land Management

Matt Varner, Bureau of Land Management  
Teresa McPherson, Bureau of Land Management  
Brenda Takes Horse, Bureau of Land Management  
Anne Marie Palmieri, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Susan Erben, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Kristin Ryan, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Art Gerlach, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Nim Ha, Alaska Division of Public Health  
Joe Sarcone, U.S. Health and Human Services, Agency for Toxic Substances  
and Disease Registry  
Matt Wilkening, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Mahri Lowinger, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ryan Maroney, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Others: Rachel Klein, The Kuskokwim Corporation  
June McAtee, Calista Corporation  
Jeff Foley, Calista Corporation  
Jess Lanman, Cook Inlet Marine Mammal Council  
Joan Hope, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts  
April Brehm, Donlin Gold  
Enric Fernandez, Donlin Gold  
Mary Sattler, Donlin Gold  
Vivian Melde, Ecology and Environment, Inc.  
Katura Willingham, Weston Solutions

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BLM invited participants to share their questions, comments and concerns about the Red Devil Mine environmental investigation.

**Major themes expressed were:**

- Concerns about basin-wide mercury contamination issues in the Kuskokwim region, and the sources of mercury. Need for broader studies to address these concerns.
- Concerns about status of cleanup at Kolmakof mine site, and other small abandoned mines in the region.
- Concerns about cancer rates in communities along the Kuskokwim, and what contributes to these rates.
- How to interpret fish consumption advisories issued by the State.
- Long-term effects of mercury exposure on human health.

- Methylmercury bioaccumulation in fish versus land and marine mammals. Interpreting liver versus muscle toxin levels and what these levels indicate.
- Concerns that current or future mining operations might become abandoned and create contamination issues. Need for better understanding among communities of current mining regulations, bonding and reclamation requirements.
- Need for policy makers to consider the human element when making decisions or developing policies that could affect the use of subsistence species rural communities.

BLM thanked participants for attending and asked that tribes and communities consider if they would like BLM to schedule a tribal consultation or community meeting in their area when the Red Devil Mine draft remedial investigation report is released in April.