



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Alaska State Office  
222 West Seventh Avenue, #13  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504  
[www.blm.gov/alaska](http://www.blm.gov/alaska)

In Reply Refer To:  
8160, 3400 (AK940)

Dear Corporation Leader:

On behalf of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), I would like to invite you to participate in consultation as the BLM undertakes a programmatic review of the Federal coal leasing program. As part of the review of the coal program, the Department of the Interior will consider the potential environmental, social, and cultural impacts of the program on indigenous communities and their lands. For more information on the current programmatic review of the coal program, please see the enclosed Federal Register Notice (86 Fed. Reg 46873 (August 20, 2021)). The Department published a second Federal Register Notice extending the public comment period (86 Fed. Reg 52174 (September 20, 2021)), also enclosed.

This letter serves to provide notification and offers an invitation to your corporation to enter consultation pursuant to the Department of the Interior Policy on Consultation with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Corporations of August 10, 2012, and other applicable laws, regulations, and policies. If you would like to schedule a consultation meeting regarding the coal program review, please contact Thomas Heinlein, Acting State Director, at 907-271-5080 or [theinlei@blm.gov](mailto:theinlei@blm.gov). Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic concerns, any meeting could likely be conducted via teleconference. However, we may be able to arrange an in-person meeting, if requested, depending on guidance from public health authorities. You may also provide to us in writing any comments or concerns relating to the Federal coal leasing program.

In November 2021, the BLM intends to announce a process for identifying potential reforms to the Federal coal program including: 1) what aspects of the program will be included in a comprehensive review, and 2) whether any immediate actions or interim steps to address potential harm from new and existing coal leases are feasible and practical.

To maximize your opportunity to participate in the review, I would recommend that you notify the BLM as soon as possible if you determine that you would like to engage in consultation. Of course, the opportunity for consultation will remain open for the duration of the review of the coal program, and the BLM will welcome your comments at any time.

A top priority for the Department of the Interior and the BLM is to ensure that future Federal action is achievable, comprehensive, long-lasting, and reflective of ANCSA Corporation input where it has potential to affect ANCSA corporations as adjacent landowners. We appreciate your interest and look forward to continued discussions.

Sincerely,

Thomas Heinlein  
Acting State Director

Enclosures (2)