



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Alaska State Office
222 West Seventh Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

In Reply Refer To:
3720 (9300)

AUG 27 2010

Ms. Jennifer Roberts
Environmental Program Manager
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
555 Cordova
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

RE: Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan
Red Devil Mine, Red Devil, Alaska

Dear Ms. Roberts:

In response to your letter dated August 19, 2010, the BLM-Alaska would like to address your concerns regarding the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the Red Devil Mine Site (RDM). Over the course of the last year, the BLM and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) have worked cooperatively to develop the RDM RI/FS. Our continued objective is to address the mine site's potential risks to human health and the environment. The DEC's current position regarding finalizing the RI/FS work plan appears to be a departure from the agreed upon schedule. Requiring a strict 30-day review of the final plan will jeopardize the timely completion of the RI/FS.

The BLM experienced significant delays procuring a contractor and those delays continue to impact the RI/FS planning effort. Despite this, the BLM submitted the draft RI/FS work plan to DEC, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Alaska Department of Human Health (DHHS) approximately 5 days ahead of schedule. The BLM received over 250 reviewer comments, some of which resulted in significant changes to elements of our technical approach. In finalizing the RI/FS work plan, the BLM's goal is to incorporate additional comments in a streamlined manner.

Quickly finalizing the RI/FS work plan will allow the BLM to complete a portion of the site characterization in the rapidly dwindling 2010 field season. It is critical that the characterization of surficial components be done this fall. A partial mobilization, focused on surface sampling, would be valuable in assessing the potential for immanent health threat or environmental damage. This limited field effort would not constitute a complete and thorough site characterization. Project Manager Mike McCrum is committed to working closely with you and your staff so that our contractor can begin work on the surficial elements during the second week of September.

Sincerely,

/s/ Julia Dougan

Julia Dougan
Acting State Director

