



Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office
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**Categorical Exclusion
Kolmakof Mine Site
Removal Site Inspection**

Applicant: BLM Anchorage Field Office
Case File Number: AA-082255
AK-040-07-CX-016



Location:

Section 6, Township 17 North, Range 53 West, Seward Meridian.

Prepared By:

Larry Beck
Environmental Protection Specialist
21 February, 2007

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM

CX No.: AK-040-07-CX-016

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA-082255

Proposed Action Title/Types: Removal Site Inspection

Location of Proposed Action: Kolmakof Mine Site, Sec 6, T 17 N, R 53 W, Seward Meridian.

Description of Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to contract with a BLM hazmat response contractor to conduct a Removal Site Inspection of the Kolmakof Mine Site to enable the BLM to determine if Removal Actions under BLM's delegated CERCLA authority are required, and if so, to provide the BLM Anchorage Field Office with sufficient information to make an informed decision on whether hazardous substances at the Site pose an imminent threat to human health and/or the environment, and whether Time-Critical or Non-Time-Critical removal action is warranted. Secondary is the identification of any past, current, or potential imminent releases of oil at the Site that may require further attention under authority other than CERCLA. The Removal Site Inspection is needed to facilitate conveyance of the land to an Alaska Native Corporation.

The Kolmakof Mine Site is an abandoned cinnabar mine where some retorting of mercury took place. The mine operated intermittently from discovery in about 1838 until the late 1980's. BLM removed containerized hazmats from the site in 2001.

The Removal Site Inspection will consist of office research and a 2-3 day on-site inspection by 2-3 persons. During the Site Inspection, soil and water samples will be collected for lab analysis for hazardous substances or oil. Field personnel will travel to/from the site via boat or helicopter. No vehicles or heavy equipment use on-site is anticipated. No digging except with hand tools for sample collection will be conducted.

Applicant: BLM Anchorage Field Office

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan:

Management Framework Plan, Southwest Planning Area

Date Plan Approved: 25 November, 1981

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5-3(a)).

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.5 H(3):

Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction, installation and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samples.

B. Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review.

The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances applies to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents **MUST BE PREPARED** for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

		YES	NO
1.	Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	_____	_____ X
2.	Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	_____	_____ X
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	_____	_____ X
4.	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	_____	_____ X
5.	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	_____	_____ X
6.	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	_____	_____ X

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| 7. | Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office. | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| 8. | Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species. | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| 9. | Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| 10. | Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| 11. | Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007). | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| 12. | Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112). | _____ | <u> X </u> |

I certify that none of the Departmental Extraordinary Circumstances listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Preparer(s): Larry Beck, Environmental Protection Specialist Date: March 6, 2007

PART III – DECISION

The proposed action is in conformance with a management framework plan or a resource management plan, 43 C.F.R. § 1610.8(a)(3) (2006). The Department of the Interior has determined and found that the proposed action is within a category of actions, which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and that neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required, 40 C.F.R. § 1508.4 (2006).

It is therefore my decision to implement the action, as described, with appropriate mitigation measures or stipulations.

Authorized Official: Mike Zaidlicz

Date: March 22, 2007