

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

I. Decision:

It is my decision to permit Barrick Gold United States Inc. to perform geotechnical material sampling along the proposed exploration route proceeding from the Donlin Creek Mine, Alaska towards the Kuskokwim River. The length of the section running through BLM administered lands would total approximately 50 linear miles. Total aggregate disturbance along the proposed route would be roughly .14 acres. Geotechnical exploration is expected to occur between July 1st, 2007 and August 1st, 2007, and will be conducted by helicopter.

II. Rationale for the Decision:

Barrick Gold United States Inc. is conducting a geotechnical sampling feasibility study to determine whether to develop an overland route from the Kuskokwim River to the Donlin Creek, Alaska mine site. The route would serve as the primary transportation route for fuel, ore, mining materials and equipment. The mine site is located 12 miles north of Crooked Creek, Alaska.

The geotechnical sampling feasibility study is being performed in connection with additional studies to identify alternative power sources for mine development and operation. Commercial power sources are not readily available in the area. The company is considering the use of an overland route to transport fuel, ore, mining materials and equipment to the mine site. The proposed overland route must be evaluated for bedrock depth and gravel borrow sources to determine whether they can establish the roadway to meet the mine's energy needs. 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.

Mike Zaidlicz  
Anchorage Field Office Manager

June 28, 2007