



**Bureau of Land Management**

Anchorage Field Office  
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**Categorical Exclusion  
Kolmakof Mine Site  
Limited Removal**

**Applicant: BLM Anchorage Field Office  
Case File Number: AA-082255  
AK-010-08-CX-024**



**Location:**

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

**Prepared By:**

Larry Beck  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
19 February, 2008

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

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CX No.: AK-010-08-CX-024

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

Proposed Action Title/Types: Limited Removal

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 conduct a limited cleanup of the Kolmakof Mine Site. All buildings will be demolished and debris properly disposed of by a BLM hazmat response contractor. Non-hazardous solid waste generated during the building demolition, and currently scattered around the site, will be disposed in an on-site, ADEC permitted monofill. Regulated materials generated during the demolition will be properly disposed of off-site. These regulated materials may include asbestos containing building materials and lead-based paint. The BLM hazmat response contractor will also remove mercury contaminated soils from three discreet locations: the "Retort Mound", the "Pond Area", and the floor of the "Ball Mill Building". These low level mercury contaminated soils will be disposed on-site in the monofill. A small amount of hazardous waste (mercury retort waste) will be disposed of off-site (out-of-state) at an EPA permitted hazardous waste disposal facility.

The work to be done is identified in the Kolmakof Mine Site Removal Site Inspection (RSI) report generated during 2007 by BLM. The work is necessary to facilitate conveyance of the land to an Alaska Native Corporation, BLM Case File: FF-014900; The Kuskokwim Corporation. The 2007 RSI report may be downloaded at:

[http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado/hazardous\\_materials/kolmakof\\_mine\\_site.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado/hazardous_materials/kolmakof_mine_site.html)

The Kolmakof Mine Site is an abandoned cinnabar mine where some retorting of mercury took place. Cinnabar is reported to have been discovered near the present site of the Kolmakof Mine by Russian traders in 1838. It is of historical interest as it is one of Alaska's earliest mineral discoveries. The mine operated intermittently from the 1880s until 1970, producing about 250 flasks (19,000 pounds) of mercury. The BLM removed containerized hazmats from the site in 2001 and conducted a CERCLA Removal Site Inspection in 2007.

The work for this project will involve a crew of 5-10 using heavy equipment. The hazmat removal will require excavation of three very small areas which each measure about 10'x10' to a depth of 1-2 feet below ground surface. Mercury is a relatively immobile substance in soils, so the excavations are expected to be shallow. Excavations will be backfilled with soils from the

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berms and piles found around the site which were created by the mining operations, or by only smoothing the area if the excavation is very shallow. Field personnel will travel to/from the site daily via snowmobile in winter, and boat or helicopter during summer/fall.

Applicant: BLM Anchorage Field Office

**PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW**

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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**

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A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.5 H(10):

*Removal of structures and materials of nonhistorical value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved.*

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.	_____	<u>  X  </u>
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.	_____	<u>  X  </u>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	_____	<u>  X  </u>

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|-----|---|-------|--------------|
| 4.  | Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.   | _____ | <u>  X  </u> |
| 5.  | Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.   | _____ | <u>  X  </u> |
| 6.  | Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.   | _____ | <u>  X  </u> |
| 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: February 19, 2008

**PART III – DECISION**

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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: /s/ Mike Zaidicz Date: 4/29/2008