



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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In Reply Refer To:  
3600 (930)

DEC 15 2008

Mr. Larry Hartig  
Commissioner  
State of Alaska  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303  
P.O. Box 111800  
Juneau, AK 99811-1800



Dear Commissioner Hartig:

Thank you for meeting with Ted Murphy and me on December 4, 2008. During our meeting I shared my thoughts with you about the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed approach to working collaboratively with the State of Alaska to resolve the cleanup issues at the Red Devil Mine site. The following is my summary of our intentions.

The BLM has secured funding to conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the Red Devil Mine site. The purpose of the RI/FS is to address data gaps in the existing site analyses that were brought to the BLM's attention by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) earlier this year and to develop a remedy for the site that will protect public health and the environment. We are seeking ADEC participation in the development of the work plan and the sampling and analysis plan, with the goal of ensuring that the investigation work we intend to conduct this field season will satisfy the ADEC's technical concerns.

We understand that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is exploring the possibility of placing the site on the National Priorities List (NPL) due to dissatisfaction with the BLM's earlier pace and its scope of site investigation and cleanup activities. In light of the BLM's commitment to immediately move forward with a comprehensive RI/FS, we believe that an NPL listing is not needed to ensure that the site cleanup is comprehensively addressed in a timely manner. We also believe that a listing would in fact cause delays in carrying out response activities.

The BLM is committed to ensuring proper characterization of any potential environmental hazards present at this site. We will continue to seek timely funding to conduct any removal or remedial actions warranted by the results of the RI/FS to protect public health and the environment. The BLM is also committed to working closely with ADEC on response activities for the site, pursuant to our 2005 Memorandum of Agreement.

In closing, I emphasize that we look forward to working with you and your staff during the development of the RI/FS as we jointly address the cleanup issues at the Red Devil Mine. We feel that by mutually addressing these issues with affected stakeholders, a timely and successful resolution for this site will best serve the public and mitigate potential resource impacts. Please do not hesitate to contact Deputy State Director for Resources Ted Murphy at 271-4413, or me at 271-5080, if you have any questions or need additional clarification regarding the BLM's planned actions for the Red Devil Mine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T.P. Lonnie". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Thomas P. Lonnie  
State Director