

Red Devil Mine Public Meeting Agenda

June 29, 2001, 12:00 - 1:00 PM
at old Herman Hardware, Red Devil

12:00 Meeting begins

> Introductions

> Discuss proposed plans for 2001 and beyond:

1. Place retort building debris in a fully lined landfill on-site.
2. Treat any waste determined to be hazardous or dispose of off-site.
3. Cap contaminated soils around the former retort building.
4. Demolish remaining site buildings and place them in a monofill on-site.
5. Remove fuel tanks and fuel impacted soil as necessary and place in a monofill on-site.
6. Complete a Risk Study for the site.
7. Complete any additional sampling requested by Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
8. Complete community relations activities, to include: public meetings, public notices, coordination of remedial plans, maintenance of the Administrative Record.

> Open floor for questions and discussions

1:00 Meeting adjourns

Notes:

Red Devil Public Meeting Minutes
6/29/01, 12:00 - 1:00 PM
at old Herman Hardware, Red Devil

Topic: Red Devil Mine cleanup plans

Notification: A comment period for the Red Devil Mine Conceptual Solid Waste Management Plan opened on May 21, 2001 and was to close on June 25, 2001. The Red Devil People & Community, Inc. requested a public meeting by letter dated June 25, 2001. BLM extended the comment period to July 6, 2001 and arranged to hold a public meeting in Red Devil on June 29, 2001. Public notice of the meeting was faxed to all known interested parties, the Red Devil Post Office, and KSKO-AM radio.

Attendance: Red Devil Community:
Richard and Shirley Wilmarth
Ron Reardon
Lenore Baird
Cliff Loomis
Robert Dolfay
Scott Greger
Ellen Brewer

Others:
Steve Hill, Kuspuk School System, Aniak
Mike Alcorn, BLM, Site Project Manager
Harrison Griffin, BLM Physical Scientist
Jeff Johnson, BLM Realty Assistant

12:15 PM, Meeting opened ~15 minutes late due to flight logistics.

Introductions were made around the room.

Mike Alcorn discussed the agenda, the open comment period for the Conceptual Solid Waste Management Plan, the proposed 2001 field work, and briefly discussed the extent of contamination at the Red Devil Mine.

Plans for 2001 and beyond as summarized in the meeting:

1. Place retort building debris in a fully lined landfill on-site.
2. Treat any waste determined to be hazardous or dispose of off-site.
3. Cap contaminated soils around the former retort building.
4. Demolish remaining site buildings and place them in a monofill on-site.
5. Remove fuel tanks and fuel impacted soil as necessary and place in a monofill on-site.
6. Complete a Risk Study for the site.
7. Complete any additional sampling requested by Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
8. Complete community relations activities, to include: public meetings, public notices,

coordination of remedial plans, maintenance of the Administrative Record.

Floor opened for questions and discussions: (questions and answers are paraphrased)

Question: Dick Wilmarth asked about the above ground fuel storage tanks (AST's) on the site.

Response: (by Mike Alcorn unless otherwise noted) There are two options available: 1) cut the tanks up and bury in a landfill or 2) disassemble the tanks and allow local interested parties to salvage the material. The Department of Interior Solicitor had voiced liability concerns over allowing the scrap metal to be salvaged due to potential contamination of the metal. Soil samples from around the AST's revealed some fuel contamination. Diesel Range Organic (DRO) hydrocarbon contamination was found at some of the joints of the fuel piping system. Currently, fuel cleanup issues have been pushed to 2002; tanks and contaminated soil issues will be left alone presently.

Question: Has there been any risk discovered [at the site]?

Response: There is risk associated with the site, but based on our previous sampling and results, the risk is isolated to the site. There is no significant contamination leaving the site. So there is no risk to community members. We do not recommend that people visit the site because there are known site contaminants. BLM is currently working on a Risk Study to determine the current site risk and the risk after the proposed cap and landfill are completed. Preliminary results indicate the proposed remedies would be effective in reducing site risk to safe levels.

Question: After the cap is in place, will the site be secure/safe?

Response: The site will always be industrial in nature (not residential or park land). The landfill and capped areas could not be disturbed. Calista Corporation is interested in the mineral potential of the site and may be interested in new mining activities if metal markets make it economical in the future.

Question: Dick Wilmarth - what about the tailings that go into the creek from the mill?

Response: The entire valley floor in the vicinity of the mine, and down to the Kuskokwim River, is made up of mine tailings or waste rock. Testing was done on the water in Red Devil Creek and the Kuskokwim River. There are levels of metals in the Red Devil Creek that exceed EPA drinking water standards, but the levels in the Kuskokwim River were within EPA standards. We plan to stabilize the tailings near the creek during our proposed work at the site. A high wall has developed where the creek washed out some old culverts. We will pull the tailings away from the creek and reduce the angle of the slopes to stabilize them.

Question: Did you drill the pond?

Response: We did place a monitoring well on the wall of the tailings pond; I do not recall the exact groundwater sampling results, but they were not extremely high. The results can be found in the 2000 field report. Soil sampling results for the pond should be in the 1999 report.

Question: Has there been any human testing done to ensure the protection of our people?

Response: No epidemiological studies have been done. As I said, there is virtually no off-site migration of the contamination from the site. Human testing is not necessary, and is beyond the scope of BLM's efforts to cleanup the mine.

Question: Can you drink the water?

Response: People should not drink the water in the Red Devil Creek. Some metals in the creek exceed EPA drinking water standards, the Kuskokwim River was within EPA standards for metals.

Question: Did McCaully Creek test high or low?

Response: No testing was done on McCaully Creek. McCaully Creek is in a separate drainage from that of the mine site and the waters are not connected. BLM is aware of the trespass on the McCaully Creek, and due to the mining that has occurred in the past in that drainage, the water should be tested before consumption. Metals are naturally abundant in the rocks in this region, which is why the mine was developed here. As water passes over or through the rocks it can pick up the metals. Mining activities that break up the rock can increase the amount of metals in the waters that flow through the rocks.

Question: When does BLM do their water testing? During High flow, low flow, year 'round?

Response: We have done our sampling mostly in July or August. We acknowledge that flows fluctuate throughout the year. The location makes it hard to get to the site to do frequent sampling. We will likely do more testing in the future that will check the higher spring flows, but we're trying to stabilize the site first, then assess what's left. Again, our Risk Study will help us determine what additional testing needs to be done, that along with state and EPA input will dictate testing needs.

Question: What kind of plan do we have for a flash flood of sediment into Red Devil Creek?

Response: Barriers (silt screens) will be put in place to minimize sediment entering Red Devil Creek and the Kuskokwim during our construction phase. There currently is no barrier. In 1999, we removed the bulk of the wastes (drums), to reduce the potential for contaminants to enter the creek.

Question: How do you know that your plans will not be more damaging than just leaving the site alone?

Response: Some actions are obvious, like we had to remove the drums of waste and chemicals at the site to avoid allowing them to get into the soil and water. Before each field action we complete an analysis of our proposed actions to determine if they are safe for the environment and people. These analyses are done in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). We have done an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) to determine the best option, costs, and risks.

Question: Who's doing the contracting?

Response: Previously, our work was done by a joint venture between Wilder/HLA under a state-wide BLM Hazmat contract. Our current contract has three contractors that can bid on each task. They are: ICRC, Wilder Construction, and Harding ESE. We are currently gathering comments on the project

and will put it out for bid in the coming weeks.

A statement was made by Dick Wilmarth regarding the presence of 13 HAZWOPR trained community members in Red Devil; the government/city council has been in place since 1995; received no information about work being performed in Red Devil; BLM should provide more information to the council so they could get jobs on this project.

Response: Federal law requires BLM to inform the public about environmental site activities. BLM strives to comply fully with all of these laws. Information about BLM's activities at the Red Devil Mine has been provide each year that we have done work at the mine. I can only vouch for the last 3 years when I have overseen the work. BLM posted public notices in the Red Devil Post Office, took out ads in the Tundra Drum and Anchorage Daily Newspapers, notified KSKO radio, held a public meeting, sent information directly to all known interested parties (ADEC, EPA, RDTC, AITC, Calista & Kuskokwim Corp.), and maintains an Administrative Record for the site. A copy of the Administrative Record has been in Red Devil for all to view. I acknowledge that there has been some access problems to the local copy of the record because the school was closed last summer (where it was held), but upon learning of the problem I sent information (plans, reports) to the Post Office for the public. Upon learning that our plan was removed from the Post Office this year, I immediately sent another copy and extended the comment period to allow all interested parties to review our plans. I checked the State of Alaska database for community organizations and did not find additional contacts.

Question: Why was the Admin. Record not in the community office?

Response: I don't know of the community office. [it was clarified that RDPCI was referenced] The Record needs to be in a neutral location, like the Post Office or the school, for all of the community to see.

Several people said that no notice was posted; no one knew when Wilder was coming and that BLM needs to contact Red Devil and let them know what's going on sooner than they have in the past. The point was made again about hiring locally.

Response: In order for local hiring to take place, it must be done through the contractors. In order for the contractors to hire locally, the local hires needed to have up-to-date 40 hr HAZWOPR certification, a physical showing ability to perform the work, and be in the union (Wilder hires union only). Mike was willing to forward the names of our contractors to the village, but we can not force them to hire locally; we can recommend it. Jeff added that it would be a violation of the independent contractor clause between BLM and the contractors. Villagers can freely contact (via phone or in writing or however) Wilder, HLA, and ICRC and offer their assistance. Dick will contact all.

A statement was made by Steve (superintendent of Red Devil school district, pilot of the plane) regarding Dept. of Labor's requirements for local hires. In each contract, there's supposed to be a certain percentage of local hires. This "local hire" clause encompasses the entire area (Kalskag, Sleetemute, etc.) outside of Red Devil proper. This does not guarantee of only hiring local hires from Red Devil, it could be anywhere in the region.

New information was presented by Robert Dolfay regarding equipment rental availability, the tightening up of Red Devil community, lodging availability, a database for information dissemination, and that the creation of jobs in the community would allow for more competitive contract bids.

Discussions clarified that most interested parties did not want to construct a community landfill at the mine site. It is too far away. The native corporations do not favor it. There could be too much tracking of contaminated soils back into the community. Grants are being sought to place a dump on other parcels of locally owned lands.

Scott Greger said that there had been a severe lack of communication in the community, but information is being distributed more effectively as of late. He said that no notice had been given as to when anyone would be coming out this year to do work on the mine. He (or Robert) will send BLM a list of qualified people that can work if their services are required [the list may contain other locally available services; equipment, lodging, etc.] This list should also be sent to the contractors. Mike offered to send it to the contractors when he receives the list from the community of Red Devil. The work plan for this field season is approximately 3-4 weeks out.

1:15 PM Meeting adjourned