

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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January 12, 2009

Mr. Thomas P. Lonnie, State Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office
222 West Seventh Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504

Re: Red Devil Mine

Dear Mr. Lonnie:

Thank you for meeting with me in early December to discuss assessment and cleanup of the Red Devil Mine site and for your December 15, 2008 follow-up letter. I appreciate your summarizing BLM's intentions for assessment and cleanup of the site.

We are encouraged that BLM has secured funding for a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) in 2009. We are committed to working with you on this effort. It is my understanding that our staffs have already been in contact regarding the RI/FS work plan.

Getting the RI/FS started is an important first step in better understanding the nature of the contamination, the attendant risk to the environment and public health, and the options for mitigating those risks. Ultimately, we share an interest in assuring that risks are addressed as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

As for including the Red Devil site on the National Priorities List (NPL), we have requested that EPA postpone that decision until the next funding cycle. (Please see enclosure.) As you know, listing the site on the NPL would invoke a comprehensive programmatic framework with which your initial measures are consistent. It would also provide additional assurance that funding would be forthcoming for indicated cleanup and long-term monitoring actions. Nevertheless, we have asked for more time so that we can coordinate and consult with others and gauge our progress at the site this coming field season. If EPA grants our extension request, we would revisit the State's position on including the Red Devil site as part of the next NPL cycle.

Again, I appreciate your efforts at the Red Devil Mine and look forward to continuing our cooperative efforts to address the contamination and the threat it poses to the Alaska public and resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry Hartig", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Larry Hartig
Commissioner

Enclosure