

# STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

**SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR**

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January 9, 2009

Ms. Elin Miller  
Regional Administrator, Region 10  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

Re: Proposed Red Devil Mine and Salt Chuck Mine site NPL listings

Dear Ms. Miller:

Thank you for your December 16, 2008 letters requesting our concurrence with placing the Red Devil Mine and Salt Chuck Mine contaminated sites on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). We are unable to concur with the listings at this time.

As you know, Alaska is committed to properly managing contaminated sites to mitigate risks to human health and the environment. We agree that including these sites on the NPL would provide additional assurance that risks posed by contamination will be properly and timely characterized and mitigated.

In both the Red Devil Mine and Salt Chuck Mine cases, however, we require additional time to coordinate and consult with the state land management agency, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and others with active interests in the properties. Accordingly, we request that you postpone these decisions until the next listing cycle.

If you agree with postponing the decisions, we would over the course of the next year coordinate and consult with others, gauge the progress of activities already planned or underway at the sites, answer questions, explore alternatives, and assess the extent to which there is a consensus around a state position on these listing decisions.

We realize that postponing a decision may be a missed opportunity of sorts since priorities and other circumstances could change to disfavor listing the sites. We also appreciate that your staff has a considerable work investment in this effort to

date. We particularly appreciate the efforts of Dan Opalski. He has been exceedingly clear, responsive and helpful.

Thank you again for your assistance and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Larry Hartig  
Commissioner

cc: Governor Sarah Palin  
Mike Nizich, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor  
Tom Irwin, Commissioner, Alaska DNR  
John Katz, Office of the Governor  
Joe Balash, Office of the Governor  
Cora Crome, Office of the Governor