

Red Devil Mine Public Meeting Agenda

June 14, 2000, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Red Devil School

10:00 Meeting begins

> Introductions

> Discuss plans for 2000 (performed by HLA/Wilder)

1. Complete asbestos survey for the entire site.
2. Remove asbestos on retort building.
Two feet of Thermal System Insulation (TSI) on upper condensing pipe.
3. Decontaminate and demolish the retort building;
Decontaminate by pressure washing contaminated components (condensing pipes and collection troughs); the construction debris will be stored onsite, awaiting future Solid Waste Landfill construction.
4. Fuel pipe inspection and cleaning.
This includes the recycling of any recovered fuel in Anchorage.
5. Soil sampling around above ground fuel storage tanks.
6. Soil sampling around retort building.
Drill rig will be used for subsurface samples. Samples will be field screened with XRF (x-ray fluorescence spectrometer) to determine the extent of mercury contamination around the retort building.
7. Installation of six monitoring wells.
Three wells will be installed on each site of Red Devil Creek for groundwater monitoring: sampling, flow direction, and gradient. Wells will only extend through the unconsolidated sediments.
8. Install a gate at the site entrance for public safety.
9. Evaluate and begin plugging mine openings (Performed by BLM, ADNR, and local hire).

> Discuss proposed plans for 2001 and beyond

1. Excavate contaminated soils/tailings and place them in an on-site solid waste landfill that is proposed to be constructed
2. Remove asbestos and lead-based paint from site buildings; place in landfill.
3. Complete additional studies and removals as required by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
4. 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

11:30 Meeting adjourns

RED DEVIL PUBLIC MEETING NOTES

June 14, 2000

RED DEVIL SCHOOL

Notification: A notice of site and meeting plans were sent for posting on May 26 to the Red Devil Post Office, the Tundra Drum Newspaper (published June 1, 2000), associated native corporations, ADEC, EPA, Kuspuk School System, and the Administrative Records (Red Devil, Anchorage).

Attendance:	Harrison Griffin	BLM
	Jeff Nelson	The Kuskokwim Corporation
	David Stimson	BLM
	Bryan Lund	HLA
	Peter Ditton	BLM
	June McAtee	Calista Corporation
	Mark Erickson	Wilder Construction Co.
	Bryan Lund	Harding Lawson Associates
	Bill Diel	BLM
	Steve Hill	Kuspuk School District
	Linda Marley	Kuspuk School District
	Pyakzlg(?)	Red Devil
	Theodore Gordon	Red Devil Traditional Council

Meeting begins 10:30 A.M. Introductions were made.

Mike Alcorn:

BLM remains concerned about local population and contamination at the Red Devil mine site. Draft work plan will be made available for public comment. The plan includes drilling, soil sampling around retort building and above-ground storage tanks, removal of asbestos from retort building, and demolition of retort building. This will occur in about three weeks.

BLM will also install a gate at the site's entrance and is in the process of evaluating and removing physical hazards associated with shafts and adits.

Theodore Gordon:

The Red Devil Traditional Council wants to restrict access as much as possible to the Red Devil mine because of PCBs and building material contamination.

Steve Hill:

Red Devil does not have a community dump. A dump site for the local community would solve this problem and meet community needs. There is more contamination on local private property than at the Red Devil mine because much of the contaminated material from the site has been pilfered by local residents. Building a central landfill near the community would allow residents an opportunity to dispose

of these materials and the materials at the Red Devil mine.

There is also concern about the collapse of underground workings.

June McAtee:

A "remote" dump site would distribute additional trash along the roadway leading to the dump.

Mike Alcorn:

The proposed landfill at the site would be for non hazardous waste. There is agreement that the community needs their own landfill. ADEC solid waste division should be contacted regarding the need for a community landfill.

Bill Diel is currently inspecting and closing the mine openings.

Steve Hill:

A lot of debris around the local community came from the mine site. This material should be removed to protect the local population, especially the children who play on and around this stuff. The biggest obstacle lies in the site location for the dump.

Other than fuel from the storage tanks, there is no contamination at the Red Devil Mine.

Mike Alcorn:

We have sample results which show elevated levels of mercury, antimony, arsenic and lead at the site related to the retort operation.

The BLM has already removed the PCBs and additional soil sampling shows no further PCB contamination.

Jeff Nelson:

We have looked at other dump [landfill] sites, but land ownership is the problem.

Mike Alcorn:

Most, if not all of the federal land is soon to be transferred to the Kuskokwim Corporation and Calista Corporation. The corporations could then grant land to the community to site the landfill.

Mark Erickson:

BLM will have a drill rig on site this summer. The rig availability could be an opportunity to gather required information about a prospective landfill site for the community. Mobilization costs are some of the highest expenses for this type of project.

Theodore Gordon:

Groundwater from local wells is brown and of poor quality. They have concerns this may be related to the mining activities. Old freezers may have asbestos in the lining and these came from the mine site.

Could we get sampling done?

Mike Alcorn:

Local groundwater is high in iron, which turns the water orange/brown. It is very unlikely there is any connection of the site groundwater to the village, based on the distance and the nature of the geology. Regional groundwater quality concerns should be addressed with ADEC. We have no knowledge of the freezers or their association to the mine. We can only address problems directly associated with the mine. Community environmental problems should be addressed with ADEC.

Theodore Gordon:

Red Devil was not originally a native community. The mine operators barged material to a storage warehouse in what is now the Red Devil community and transported it to the Red Devil mine.

We also have seen brown water coming from Red Devil Creek.

Mike Alcorn:

The brown-colored water in Red Devil Creek comes from high iron content and is not contamination.

Steve Hill:

The water at the mine was high in arsenic. ADEC needs to know Red Devil community concerns. Where is the contamination coming from?

Antimony was coming from the tailings piles.

Mike Alcorn:

BLM has, and continues to test the site soils/tailings. We have supplied an Administrative Record that contains all site reports describing the site. We will find a contact at ADEC to address your concerns and questions.

June McAtee:

Testing shows that there is more arsenic in the Red Devil community than at the Red Devil mine site due to the nature of the local geology. The community is faced with natural as well as man-made arsenic from mine sites.

Theodore Gordon:

Drinkable water is around 150 - 200 feet down. [information gathered for BLM's CERCLA Site Investigation indicate most area wells are screened in the surficial aquifer, less than 30' below ground surface (bgs). The school well is screened at about 80' bgs in a different formation, and produces good quality water.]

Steve Hill:

Villages are in the dark about what is happening out at Red Devil mine site. The problem seems to be getting a hold of these documents. Teachers at the school couldn't find them or didn't know where to

look.

Mike Alcorn:

BLM has an Administrative Record at Red Devil which has all communications between BLM, the State of Alaska, EPA, our reports and plans, etc. While we could not locate the Record today, we will locate it and make it available. [the school in which the Record is kept is closed for the summer; we have placed the latest update of the record in the Post Office for the summer]

unknown participant:

How much is it going to cost to cleanup the mine?

Mike Alcorn:

BLM's options for the tailing piles at the mine include construction of an on-site landfill for \$1.5 million, to \$43 million to ship the waste out to a treatment facility. These and other options are laid out and analyzed in our Engineering/Cost Analysis report and a second report summarizing site data and the EE/CA options. Both reports will be in the Administrative Record and mailed to interested parties [done].

Steve Hill:

Why not treat it [tailings] as an ore to offset cleanup costs?

Mike Alcorn:

BLM would not treat the tailings as ore, but as contaminated soil. There is concern about the environmental aspects of ore processing [state and federal permits, CWA, CAA requirements]. The cost to bring in the equipment and the time required to process would be far more expensive than the proposed option of constructing a landfill. Reprocessing may have been an option for one of the former operators.

Theodore Gordon:

Expressed concern for mercury in fish.

Mike Alcorn:

Scientific studies show the fish in the Kuskokwim watershed do not contain hazardous levels of mercury. One study showed slightly elevated levels of mercury in the livers of the fish in the Kuskokwim watershed.

The site contains mercury sulfide (cinnabar) and elemental mercury from the retorting process. The most hazardous form of mercury is methyl mercury. Methyl mercury is more toxic than the other types of mercury and has not been found at the site.

Theodore Gordon:

Natives eat every part of the fish.

Mike Alcorn:

June, would you explain to the group the nature of the regional geology and the distribution of the metals in the rock.

June McAtee:

The mercury belt appears to extend from Red Devil to Decoursey Mountain; mercury in soil samples have higher levels than areas outside this province.

If there is elevated mercury levels in fish, pike would be the most likely fish to show this and there is no evidence to support that. Salmon do not feed once they reach fresh water.

Theodore Gordon:

Salmon do eat in fresh water, out of habit. Have examined the stomach contents of salmon that prove this.

Mike Alcorn:

Red Devil Creek and the Kuskokwim have been tested for metals. The Kuskokwim River meets EPA drinking water quality standards for metals. The Red Devil Creek does show elevated levels of metals, but the contamination is confined to the site.

Red Devil creek may be too small to support a fish population. The Creek is not classified as anadromous by ADNR. Anadromous means they spend only a fraction of their life in fresh waters, and most of their life in the ocean.

BLM will make draft copies of work plan available.

Steve Hill:

Why not send contaminants back down the main shaft?

Mike Alcorn:

Shaft is full of water and this would further contaminate the ground water. Crushed ore has a higher surface area which increases the risk of further contamination to the environment.

Meeting adjourned 11:45 A.M.



United States Department of the Interior

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PUBLIC NOTICE

June 19, 2001

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) IS PROVIDING PUBLIC NOTICE OF PLANS TO DISPOSE OF BUILDING DEBRIS AND MINE WASTES IN A PROPOSED MONOFILL AT THE RED DEVIL MINE. OTHER PLANS INCLUDE THE DEMOLITION AND DISPOSAL OF REMAINING SITE BUILDINGS AND FUEL TANKS, CAPPING CONTAMINATED SOILS, AND COMPLETING ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING.

General plans are described in the draft Red Devil Mine Conceptual Solid Waste Management Plan, located in the site Administrative Record at the Red Devil Post Office. A copy of the Administrative Record is also available at the BLM Anchorage Field Office Public Room, 6881 Abbott Loop Road, Anchorage, Alaska, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. Specific work plans will be available before this project begins. This work may begin in August, 2001 or later.

A public meeting for this plan has not been scheduled. BLM will hold a public meeting if written requests are received.

A comment period was started on May 21, 2001, and was to close on June 25, 2001, however, BLM will accept comments until July 6, 2001 to ensure the public has adequate opportunity to reply.

Questions or comments may be directed to Mike Alcorn, BLM Energy and Minerals Group Manager, at the above address, by email: malcorn@ak.blm.gov, or by phone: (907) 267-1442.
