

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION DIVISION OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE CONTAMINATED SITES REMEDIATION PROGRAM

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

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May 10, 2000

**FAXED**  
TO BLM 267  
5-10-00 1304

Mike Alcorn  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
6881 Abbott Loop Road  
Anchorage, AK 99507

Subject: Review of "Limited Waste Removal Action Report, Red Devil Mine, Red Devil, Alaska" dated March 12, 1999 and prepared by HLA/Wilder JV

Dear Mr. Alcorn,

As we discussed today, I have completed my review of the "Limited Waste Removal Action Report" dated November 19, 1999 for the Red Devil Mine, with cover letter dated December 22, 1999. The report documents the investigation of several areas where contamination had been observed or suspected, removal of a variety of hazardous and non-hazardous materials including lead-acid batteries, and documents the results of background sampling of soils, sediments, and surface water for metals. High levels of mercury were identified in soils in the vicinity of the mercury retort, and additional characterization of the area is clearly needed.

I understand that BLM will submit a work plan later this month that includes grid sampling on ten foot centers over an area of approximately 112 feet by 224 feet, surrounding the retort structure. Approximately 171 locations will be sampled to a depth of five feet, with three samples taken from each location, one at the surface, one at 3 feet, and one at 5 feet. I recommended that you add an additional sampling point between the surface sample, which should be taken at a depth of 6 inches, and the 3 foot sample, to better characterize the area. Also, I recommended having the flexibility in the field to add additional samples if needed, based on XRF field screening and other field observations. We discussed the possibility of using XRF samples in lieu of some of the analytical samples, as you have been advised that the correlation between laboratory analytical and XRF results is fairly consistent. I recommended that you analyze at least half of the samples collected using laboratory analytic methods in addition to XRF. If water is present in the settling ponds during the planned site work, the water should be analyzed for metals.

You also mentioned that BLM has tentatively scheduled a public meeting in Red Devil on June 14<sup>th</sup>, to discuss site status and cleanup or stabilization alternatives, which may include presenting the option of creating a lined landfill for some of the debris.

I look forward to receiving your work plan. Please call me at (907) 269-7527 if you have questions or comments regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen Olson". The signature is written in black ink and has a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Eileen A. Olson  
Environmental Specialist

cc: Mark Ader, EPA Seattle  
Jim Frechione, ADEC Anchorage  
Kent Patrick-Riley, ADEC Watershed