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## DIVISION OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE CONTAMINATED SITES REMEDIATION PROGRAM

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July 7, 2000

**FAXED**  
TO BLM 7-7-00  
2671304 104 AM  
+ HLA

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

Subject: Approval of "Work Plan: Remedial Action and Additional Site Investigation, Red Devil Mine, Red Devil, Alaska," dated June 12, 2000 and prepared by HLA/Wilder JV, and receipt of two additional documents: "Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis" prepared by HLA/Wilder JV and the "Review and Analysis of Site Investigations and Engineering Evaluation for Determination of a Contaminated Site Cleanup Option" by Michael Alcorn of BLM

Dear Mr. Alcorn:

The Contaminated Sites Remediation Program has reviewed the subject work plan, which was received on June 16, 2000. As we discussed this morning, this letter includes comments only on the work plan. I will provide preliminary comments on the other two documents by mid-August. The work plan is approved with the following comments:

- 1) The initial site visit referenced in the work plan took place on June 13, 2000, and the number and location of samples to be collected has not been substantially changed based on that visit. (The plan states that the actual number and locations of samples will depend on site conditions observed during the initial site visit and may be adjusted accordingly).
- 2) BLM plans to analyze three samples from each boring by field screening using a portable X-Ray fluorescence spectrometer (XRF), operated by BLM personnel. One of the three samples from each boring will be analyzed in the laboratory. The XRF results reportedly correlate well with laboratory analysis by EPA Method 7471 for mercury. However, as we discussed, the Department recommends that a duplicate sample be collected for each of the soil samples to be analyzed by XRF field screening. Since the holding time for soil samples to be analyzed for mercury by Method 7471 is 28 days, this will allow BLM additional flexibility at low additional cost if you find later that additional analyses are warranted.

- 3) The Department recommends that BLM collect samples below the water table during monitoring well installation, if possible, and at a minimum log the samples visually, recording observations such as soil type and visible mercury.
- 4) The Department recommends collecting bulk samples from representative soil strata, and retaining these for possible use in evaluating stabilization or treatment methods. Retention of smaller field samples, such as those collected for XRF screening, might also be useful for later review with respect to field observations.
- 5) Please make detailed records of field observations, regarding soil type and the appearance of visible mercury (for example, size and distribution of elemental mercury globules, when present) in soil samples.

As we discussed this morning, I hope to visit the site during the sampling program in late July or early August and would appreciate it if you would keep me apprised of your field schedule. Please call me at (907) 269-7527 if you have questions or comments regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Eileen A. Olson  
Environmental Specialist

cc: Nick Ceto, EPA Region X  
Joe McElroy, HLA

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