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I talked with Patti Epler
Afternoon 4 Aug. Mac

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Red Devil site may be contaminated

Will be extracted?

Manager for the West
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Anchorage Chamber
"High Tech Oil: The
Extraction of That
Anchorage Hilton
72-2401 for details.

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both days in the
rs on Third Avenue.

meet next week

vice's Alaska regional
meet from 9 a.m. to 4

By PATTI EPLER
Daily News reporter

Federal officials say people should stay away from an old mining site at Red Devil in western Alaska because it may be contaminated with toxic waste.

Bureau of Land Management specialists visited the three-acre site in July and found old transformers and bags of old chemicals, said Mac Wheeler of the BLM.

BLM suspects PCBs might have spilled from the transformers, and think years of processing mercury might have resulted in contamination, Wheeler said.

Red Devil is about eight miles down the Kuskokwim River from Sleetmute. About 50 people live within three miles of the old mine, according to a 1987 state Department of Environmental Conservation report on the

suspected hazardous waste site.

Mercury was mined at Red Devil for 38 years by various companies, for the last two decades by Alaska Mines and Minerals Inc. About 2.6 million pounds of mercury was produced before the mine was shut down in 1971 because of low mercury prices, the DEC report said. In its final two years, the mine was considered top producing hard-rock mine, the report said.

BLM is posting the site with warning signs and notifying people who hold unpatented federal mining claims of the potential danger, said Ron Huntsinger, BLM's hazardous waste coordinator.

Wheeler said the government has hired an environmental firm to take water and sediment samples to determine the extent of contamination. The company is expected to begin work at Red Devil next month, he said.

Insilco board accepts \$950 million buyout

The Associated Press

MERIDEN, Conn. — Insilco Corp. said Thursday its board approved a manage-

target company's cash flow or the sale of its assets.

Insilco officials would not say

Exchange, Insilco rose \$2 a share to \$29.25, or 25 cents above the offered