

November 2009

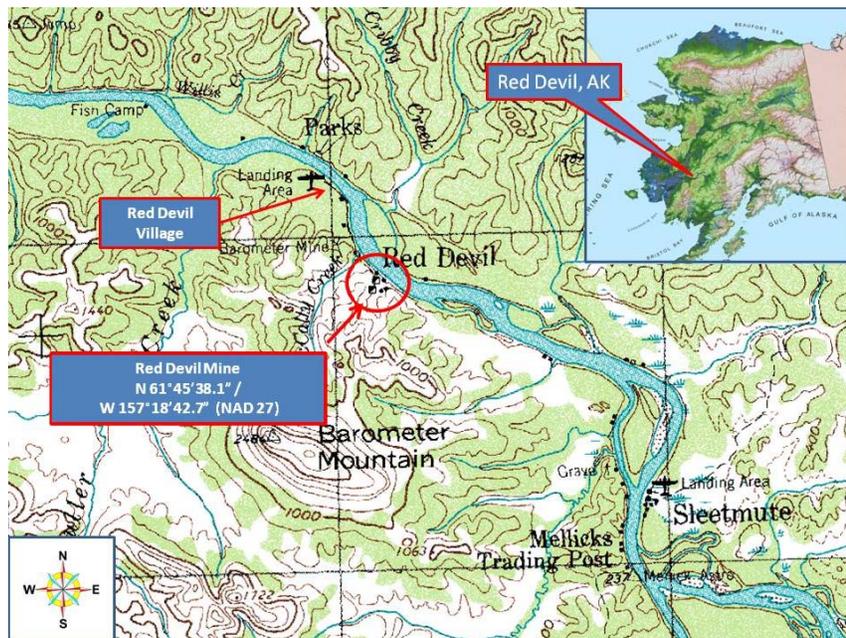
Red Devil Mine Environmental Investigation Update

BLM

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has begun two new environmental projects at the Red Devil Mine, an abandoned cinnabar mine and mercury production facility on the Kuskokwim River. This flyer is an introduction; additional information will be provided as the projects progress.

The lands encompassing the Red Devil Mine have been selected for conveyance to The Kuskokwim Corporation (surface estate) and Calista Corporation (subsurface estate) as part of the Sleetmute Village Townsite selection under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The BLM will be able to convey these lands once remediation has been completed.

The mine is located on the south bank of the Kuskokwim River, approximately 1.5 miles upstream from the village of Red Devil and approximately 8 miles downstream from the village of Sleetmute.



The Red Devil Mine is one of many cinnabar mines that once operated in Alaska. The mine operated from 1939 until 1971 and was a world-class producer of mercury. Since 1987 the mine has been the subject of numerous environmental investigations and cleanups.



Red Devil Mine Ore Processing Facility 1943

Mining Impact Project

In coordination with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), the BLM is continuing its investigation of contamination remaining at the mine. The BLM is contracting to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study of the mine site in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Anchorage Field Office



The purpose of this investigation is to characterize the site, determine what potential risks the mine site may have on human health and the environment, and what needs to be done to mitigate those risks.

Potential contaminants of concern at the site include mercury, antimony, arsenic, and lead from mine tailings and the mercury production process. Other hazardous substances may be added to this list as the investigation progresses. The BLM anticipates the investigations will continue through 2011, with remediation taking place after that.



Petroleum Response Project

The BLM has also contracted with Marsh Creek, LLC, to investigate and clean up fuel that spilled from the mine's fuel storage and distribution system. This project is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. ADEC is providing regulatory oversight for the petroleum cleanup.

Community Involvement

During the course of these projects, the BLM will conduct a range of community involvement and awareness activities, to include meetings in Anchorage and at locations near the Red Devil Mine. We are developing a community involvement plan that will identify those activities in more detail. The BLM welcomes your questions and comments. We will be asking for your input about the best ways to provide information and solicit comments, as well as your thoughts on the cleanup itself.

These projects will be managed from the BLM Anchorage Field Office located at 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, AK 99507. For more information about these projects, contact Field Manager Jim Fincher at 1-800-478-1263, or visit our webpage at http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado/hazardous_materials/red_devil_mine.html.



Bureau of Land Management
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