



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Fairbanks District Office  
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<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

*In Reply Refer To:*  
2920 (AKA032)  
F-035073

July 13, 2012

City of Ruby  
P.O. Box 90  
Ruby, Alaska 99768

To Whom It May Concern:

This August the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Central Yukon Field Office plans to begin a phased clean-up of a former lease site located at Melozi Hot Springs near Ruby, Alaska.

In the early twentieth century, several Executive Orders and Acts withdrew Alaska hot springs from settlement, location, sale, or entry and directed the Secretary of the Interior to issue leases or permits of up to 20 years in duration for the construction and public use. Several hot springs remain under lease to this day.

On December 30, 1965, the BLM received a lease application from Leonard Veerhausen to develop and improve the lands around Melozi Hot Springs. The lease was issued on May 27, 1966, for 20 years. The lands are described as being within Secs. 23 and 24, T. 4 S., R. 20 E., Kateel River Meridian, Alaska, containing approximately 160 acres.

After the death of Leonard Veerhausen and his wife, several different lessees took over Melozi Hot Springs Lodge, with the last being the Melozi Hot Springs Incorporated. The latest lease was not renewed and expired on May 27, 1996.

Today the site includes numerous buildings and other improvements, two bulldozers, solid waste and hazardous materials. Most of the improvements have not been maintained and have fallen into disrepair, causing public safety issues. Several buildings have collapsed, others will likely do so without further maintenance, and the airstrip is unusable due to erosion and re-vegetation.

With costs increasing every year and public safety at stake, the BLM has obtained funds to begin clean-up of the site.

Our plans have not been finalized, particularly in regard to the future disposition of the buildings that are intact. However, we are currently proposing to clean-up the site in three phases as follows:

August 2012 – remove all household debris and all full unopened fuel barrels

Summer 2013 – remove all structures except the old caribou cabin and lodge. Analyze and inventory all hazardous materials and spills.

Summer 2014 – implement removal of all hazardous materials and begin remediation efforts on spills.

We are seeking your comments on this cleanup project. The comment period will close 30 days after the date of this notice. Written comments received on or before this date will become part of the official record and will be considered in the determination.

### **If You Have Any Questions**

If you have any questions, please contact Robin Walthour of my staff at 474-2304. You may submit written comments regarding the proposed action to the address below or by e-mail. No public meeting is scheduled:

Bureau of Land Management  
Central Yukon Field Office  
Attention: Robin Walthour  
1150 University Avenue  
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E-mail: [r1rodrig@blm.gov](mailto:r1rodrig@blm.gov)

Sincerely,

/s/ Nichelle W. Jacobson

Nichelle W. Jacobson  
Field Manager  
Central Yukon Field Office

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