

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, February 7, 2008

- 1) Call to order – Rick Rogers, Vice President
- 2) Self Introductions
- 3) Headtable Introductions
- 4) Staff Report – Jason Brune, Executive Director
- 5) MMS Update – Randall Luthi, Director, U.S. MMS
- 6) Program and Keynote Speaker:

Market-Based Responses To Address Climate Change

Peter Larsen, Senior Policy Advisor for Climate
Change and Energy, The Nature Conservancy

Next Meeting: Feb. 14: Alaska Business Roundtable on Climate Change, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Egan Center, February 21 Breakfast Forum: Bristol Bay: Balancing Environmental, Economic and Subsistence Values, Lisa Reimers, General Manager, Iliamna Development Corporation

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Anchorage Daily News

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Chukchi Sea lease sale draws record bidding

Anchorage Daily News

(02/06/08 13:22:41)

Oil companies bid a record \$2.66 billion today for oil and gas leases in the Chukchi Sea off Northwest Alaska.

The blockbuster federal oil and gas lease sale brought in more high bids than any other Alaska lease sale, topping the \$2.06 billion bid in 1982 for Beaufort Sea leases in federal waters.

Federal Minerals Management Service officials said they had received 667 bids for the Chukchi, a record number for a lease sale on Alaska's outer continental shelf. The bids covered 2.8 million acres of the Chukchi.

Shell Gulf of Mexico was the most vigorous bidder. It bid the most for any single block: \$105 million.

Other bidders include Conoco Phillips, Italian oil company Eni, Norwegian oil giant Statoil Hydro, Iona Energy, Repsol E&P USA and Northern America Civil Recovery Arbitrage Corp.

At times the bidding was pitched between Shell and Conoco for the same leases.

"The big boys came, flexed their muscles," said Jason Brune, executive director of the Resource Development Council for Alaska.

The MMS estimates the remote Chukchi holds 15 billion barrels of conventionally recoverable oil and 77 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Those numbers are roughly comparable to the North Slope oil fields in the Prudhoe Bay area.

But the lease sale has been controversial, with North Slope Natives and environmentalists charging that the federal government didn't sufficiently consider how oil and gas development could affect whale migrations.

Shortly before the lease sale began at Anchorage's Loussac Library, a group from the village of Point Hope and the Alaska Wilderness League staged a protest. The villagers expressed concern that their whale hunts could be disrupted and an oil spill could be disastrous.

Return to adn.com for updates to this story and see tomorrow's print edition of the Daily News for full coverage.

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Alaska Drilling Plans Draw Opposition

By **STEPHEN POWER**

February 4, 2008: Page A4

WASHINGTON -- A federal plan to expand oil-and-gas drilling in Alaska presents the Bush administration with an awkward choice between oil and polar bears.

Some congressional Democrats and environmental groups are trying to delay Wednesday's planned auction of oil-and-gas leases in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska's northwest coast, an area conservationists say is habitat for as much as one-tenth of the global polar-bear population.

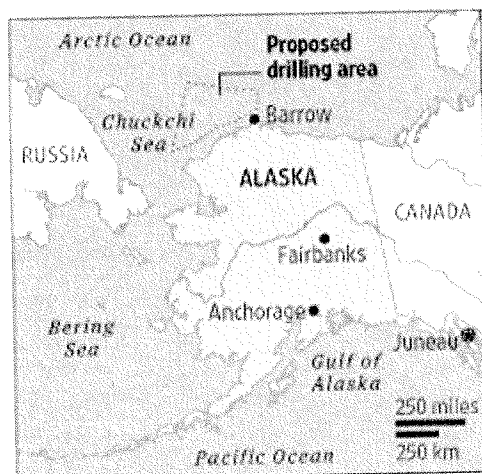
Opponents of the sale want the Minerals Management Service -- a unit of the U.S. Interior Department that manages the nation's natural-gas and oil resources on the outer continental shelf -- to wait until another Interior branch, the Fish and Wildlife Service, decides whether to designate the polar bear as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Such a listing would require the Fish and Wildlife Service to set aside habitat that it considers essential for the polar bears to survive -- a step that could complicate oil-and-gas drilling operations in the Chukchi.

Images of polar bears struggling to survive the changes wrought by rising temperatures have become a rallying symbol for green activists. Just as potent, however, is the public thirst for more and cheaper oil.

The dispute illustrates the political conflicts that some industry observers say are bound to occur more frequently as rising oil prices lead oil companies to consider exploring in high-cost, remote areas that were once deemed too expensive or difficult to operate in.

It is also the latest clash between President George W. Bush's administration and Congress over drilling in Alaska. A White House-backed effort to expand oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge failed in the Senate in 2005.



The area of the planned sale -- roughly the size of Pennsylvania -- is believed to contain as many as 15 billion barrels of recoverable oil, according to the Minerals Management Service, but hasn't been the subject of a lease sale since 1991. Currently there is no drilling in the Chukchi.

"With world consumption being what it is, there's going to be tighter and tighter competition. That's why it's important to develop our own" energy resources, Randall Luthi, director of the Minerals Management Service, said in an interview last week. Mr. Luthi added, "We think the time is right for this to be a very robust sale."

Mr. Luthi declined to speculate on how much money the government expects to collect as a result of the planned sale. Companies that have expressed interest in bidding for the right to drill in the Chukchi Sea include Royal Dutch Shell PLC, ConocoPhillips and StatoilHydro ASA, Mr. Luthi said. Spokespeople for the three companies declined to comment. In a letter to the Fish and Wildlife Service dated April 9, 2007, Conoco said listing the polar bear as threatened "is not warranted" based on the bears' current population numbers. Listing them as threatened "will have an adverse impact on the oil and gas industry and people that live in the Arctic" in the form of "additional administrative burdens and increased costs associated with such burdens," the company said. The number of polar bears globally is estimated at 20,000 to 25,000.

The Minerals Management Service initially proposed selling oil and natural-gas leases in the Chukchi Sea in 2002, with an auction scheduled for June 2007. It postponed the sale until this year to allow more time to study the environmental impact of the move, Minerals Management Service officials said.

In recent months, however, the sale's timing has turned contentious. The Fish and Wildlife Service has spent more than a year considering a proposal to list the polar bear as threatened, and was supposed to reach a decision on the matter last month. But recently the agency announced it wouldn't meet the deadline, citing the complexity of the issue and the need to review public comments on new research.

At a Senate hearing last week, Sen. Barbara Boxer (D., Calif.) accused the Fish and Wildlife Service of "dragging its feet." Some Democrats have introduced legislation to postpone the sale, but it is unlikely any legislation could pass in time to halt Wednesday's sale.

Conservation groups have asked a federal court in Anchorage to require the Interior Department to conduct a new analysis of the environmental impact of oil-and-gas exploration in the Chukchi. The groups' lawsuit doesn't ask the court to block the lease sale, but it could help conservationists eventually block drilling in the Chukchi if the court finds the government's original environmental assessment was flawed.

Mr. Luthi said he sees no reason to postpone the sale, because his agency has already conferred with the Fish and Wildlife Service and been advised that opening the Chukchi to drilling would have a "negligible" impact on the bears. The area where most exploration is expected to occur is a stretch of open sea about 50 miles offshore and isn't likely to contain many bears, he added.

An official with the Fish and Wildlife Service confirmed that the agency has conferred with the Minerals Management Service about drilling's potential impact on the bears. "There could be some

disturbance to the bear, but it won't cause jeopardy" for the animal, said Larry Bell, assistant regional director for external affairs for the wildlife service's Anchorage office. Mr. Bell said his agency defines jeopardy as activity that would "impact the health of the animal or the life of the animal."

But conservationists dispute those assumptions. "Polar bears are widely distributed throughout the Chukchi Sea," said Andrew Wetzler, director of the Endangered Species Project at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

A decision to postpone the sale further would make it difficult for oil companies to explore the Chukchi this year, Mr. Luthi said, because of the prevalence of ice during colder months. Many of Alaska's leading politicians have urged the Fish and Wildlife Service not to designate the polar bear as threatened, and some have warned that a postponement of the lease sale would harm the state's economy.

"It's quite important for Alaska as a state," said Michael Rae, research analyst with oil consultancy Wood Mackenzie Ltd. Mr. Rae said the sale could eventually help reverse the decline in Alaska's oil production. But, he added, "we're talking 10 years in the future" because of the length of time needed to build up production and drilling infrastructure.

11/23/08

Listing polar bear as endangered would damage gas line prospects

In your recent editorial endorsing listing the polar bear on the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Anchorage Daily News questioned how such a listing would threaten a North Slope gas line ("Put bears on the list," Jan. 13).

An ESA listing would jeopardize a gas line by undermining the project's economics. New natural gas discoveries beyond the Slope's 35 trillion cubic feet of known reserves are vital to the gas line's economic viability. Known gas reserves are not enough to make the project economic.

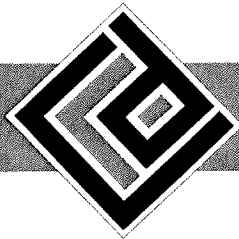
With its subsequent critical habitat designations and third-party lawsuits, an ESA listing could block access to highly prospective areas (such as the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska) that may hold up to 200 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Some powerful environmental groups consider these areas critical habitat for polar bears and intend to oppose new energy development there.

While the government has some flexibility in considering economic impacts in its rules to protect a species, such latitude could diminish once key decisions ultimately end up before the appeals court, which frequently rules against Alaska projects.

The bears are currently well managed by international and domestic agreements, laws and regulations, making them one of the most protected species in the world. Their population worldwide has more than doubled in 40 years, and in Alaska the population is healthy in size and distribution.

The listing has the potential to damage prospects for the gas line and our economy without any added benefit to polar bears or their habitat.

— *Carl Portman, deputy director
Resource Development Council
Anchorage*



ACTION ALERT

Yukon Flats NWR Land Exchange

Deadline for Comments: March 25, 2008

Overview:

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is considering a land exchange in the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge with Doyon Limited, the largest private landowner in the refuge. Created in 1980, the refuge is comprised of 11 million acres, roughly the size of Maryland. Doyon owns 2 million acres within the refuge boundary. In 2004, USFWS and Doyon tentatively agreed to the terms of a land exchange. The Department of Interior initially determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was not required. Doyon and others, however, requested an EIS, given it would offer residents in the Yukon Flats more details on the potential impacts of the trade and potential development in the area.

Under the proposed trade, Doyon would turn over 150,000 acres rich in fish and game resources, including prime waterfowl habitat in the wet low lands of the refuge. In exchange, Doyon would receive oil and gas rights to 200,000 prospective acres. However, Doyon would have surface rights to only 110,000 of those acres, most of which is in the uplands with lesser habitat values. The remaining acreage would be reached only by directional drilling. If Doyon discovers and produces oil and gas on the lands acquired through the exchange, the Service would receive a production payment equal to 1.25% of the value at the wellhead and a commitment from Doyon to sell up to 120,000 acres more land to the USFWS. In addition, Doyon would reallocate 56,000 acres of remaining entitlement within the refuge to locations outside the refuge.

Birch Creek is the closest community to the land trade area and the Birch Creek Tribal Council and its leadership support the trade. Doyon is supportive of both the Proposed Action Alternative and Alternative 1. Detailed information on the alternatives and the overall EIS can be found at:

http://yukonflatseis.ensr.com/yukon_flats/

Action Requested:

1. Testify in support of the land exchange at one of the following public meetings:

Fairbanks

Thursday, February 21st, 5 p.m., Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street

Anchorage

Tuesday, March 4th 5 p.m., Public Conference Room, Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St.

2. Submit written comments in support of the Yukon Flats land exchange before March 25, 2008

Mail: Yukon Flats EIS Project Office, c/o ENSR

1835 South Bragaw, Suite 490, Anchorage, AK 99508

Online Comments: http://yukonflatseis.ensr.com/Yukon_Flats/Comments.aspx

Points to consider in your testimony and letter:

- The proposed land exchange is in the public's best interest as it would allow the USFWS to achieve its conservation goals and consolidate land ownership.
- The exchange would allow the agency to acquire many of the highest-priority fish and wildlife habitats on Doyon lands.
- The land exchange would allow Doyon to consolidate its holdings within the refuge so it can improve the economics of drilling for oil and gas. The entire flats show favorable signs of oil and gas, but the highest petroleum potential lies under land proposed for exchange.
- The Yukon Flats could hold significant quantities of natural gas and oil. The U.S. Geological Survey offers a mean estimate of 5.5 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas and 173 million barrels of recoverable oil. A recent private-sector assessment estimates the area could hold 300 million to almost 1 billion barrels of oil and 15 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The area is potentially another energy province on the scale of Cook Inlet and could hold two Alpine-size oil fields.
- If oil and gas are discovered, many public benefits would be generated, including billions of dollars pumped into Alaska's economy. State revenues would grow and new energy supplies would flow into the American market.
- The land exchange and subsequent discovery of energy resources would allow for the creation of a long-term economic base in an economically-disadvantaged part of rural Alaska. Development would create 1,000 or more good paying jobs. It would help fulfill ANCSA's promise to enhance social and economic well-being of Native people, creating jobs and other opportunities for Doyon shareholders.
- Other benefits include village and regional Native corporation revenue sharing under ANCSA, which means more revenue statewide for these entities.
- The land exchange does not include the biological heart of the refuge.
- If all of the areas under the exchange turned into development opportunities, less than one percent of the Yukon Flats would be disturbed.
- Doyon will proceed with development opportunities, with or without the land exchange. If there is no exchange, there is increased potential for development in high value habitat areas of the refuge. With the trade, there is more land for Doyon to explore, land considered low in habitat value with little subsistence use.

Action Alert: Tulsequah Chief Mine Project

Deadline for comment is 5:00 pm AST February 21, 2008

Overview:

The State of Alaska announced a public review and comment period for the Tulsequah Chief Project Air Cushing Barging Proposal. A proposal to move mine product via Air Cushion Barge (ACB) and amphitrac by way of the Taku River from the mine site to Juneau was submitted by Redfern Resources, Ltd., the mine owner. The Alaska Coastal Management Program will review the project for consistency.

The Tulsequah Chief Mine Project is a polymetallic mine located in British Columbia, near the Taku River. The mine is expected to generate \$24 million annually for Southeast Alaska, with a minimum eight-year life expectancy. Approximately 20 – 30 direct jobs will be created in Juneau, and approximately 250 jobs at the mine site. Operation and success of this project will open the door to other projects in the area, creating sustainable employment opportunities.

Redfern Resources has contracted to have the amphitrac created for this project, to specifically protect the land and waters. The amphitrac, along with the ACB, both have very low ground-pressure, which will minimize ground disturbance. The ACB, operated by Juneau-based Alaska Marine Lines, can safely travel over land or water in extreme conditions. The transportation vessels will avoid salmon spawning habitats and will be monitored to avoid and minimize disturbance.

The mine proposal also includes clean up of the waste rock from original mining operations from the 1950s. While the mine is not located on the U.S. side of the border, the benefits of the clean up will positively impact the Taku River, and other nearby waterways.

The Alaska Large Mine Team, consisting of representatives from various departments, all with expertise in mine development, has been invited by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans to participate in the review of the project. This team will ensure the project meets or exceeds the permitting standards in Alaska. This will ensure the protection of water quality and fisheries.

For additional information, refer to the Public Notice located at:

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/largemine/tulsequah/publicnotice.htm>

Action Requested:

- Attend a public meeting February 4, 2008, in Juneau at the Juneau Centennial Hall, Ballroom 3, located at 101 Egan Drive, from 7:00 to 9:30 pm.
- Submit comments in support of the Tulsequah Chief Mine Project ACMP permit.

Submit written comments to:

Tulsequah Chief Project Comments

*Attn.: Tom Crafford, Mining Coordinator
ADNR/Office of Project Management and Permitting
550 West Seventh Ave., Suite 900D
Anchorage, AK 99501*

Comments may also be sent via email to: tom.crafford@alaska.gov
Faxes may be sent to (907) 269-8930.

Points to consider for your comments:

- The design of the project's transportation equipment will minimally impact the area. The wake generated by the water equipment is small, and the Air Cushion Barge and amphitrac both have very low ground pressure, reducing potential impact to a minimum.
- Access to the site will accelerate clean up efforts of waste rock from mining operations in the 1950s, which will help maintain clean water.
- The mine is expected to generate \$24 million annually for Southeast Alaska, with an eight-year life expectancy. Approximately 20 – 30 direct jobs will be created in Juneau, with approximately 250 jobs at the mine site. Operation and success of this project will open the door to other projects in the area, creating sustainable employment opportunity.
- Alaska's Large Mine Team will ensure the Tulsequah Mine Project meets or exceeds Alaska's permitting standards to protect water quality and fisheries.
- Issuance of the permit will eliminate potential impacts of a road or other ground transportation methods to the environment.
- During operation, efforts to avoid conflict of area resources, including fishing and fish habitat, will be implemented.

Deadline for comment is 5:00 pm AST February 21, 2008



Municipality of Anchorage

P.O. Box 196650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • Telephone: (907) 343-4431 • Fax: (907) 343-4499 <http://www.muni.org>

Mayor Mark Begich

Office of the Mayor

January 2, 2008

Dear Business Leader:

Climate change is a rapidly emerging economic, social and cultural issue affecting numerous aspects of our lives and livelihoods in Alaska. Following the success of the 2007 inaugural event, I invite you to attend the 2008 Alaska Business Roundtable on Climate Change to be held on Thursday, February 14, 2008 from 8:15 am to 4:00 pm at the Egan Center in Anchorage. This year's event brings topics of a broader statewide interest for business leaders as assembled by a growing number of sponsoring organizations

The purpose of the conference is to bring Alaska businesses together to learn from leaders and experts in the climate change and energy fields. You will hear from business and civic leaders who have changed their operations to save money and energy, who are taking actions anticipating new markets, and those who are changing their construction or operational practices to adjust to a warmer Alaska. The full agenda for the day is on the backside of this letter.

Our guest lunch speaker will be Mattia Romani who works with the UK Government's Stern Review team which supported Sir Nicholas Stern's renowned study on *The Economics of Climate Change* commissioned by Prime Minister Tony Blair and Chancellor Gordon Brown. Roger Wicks, from Anglo America, will speak about the advancements in making clean energy and clean fuels from coal. Ken Baker of Vancouver, B.C. has been invited to speak about the numerous ways that British Columbia will make the 2010 winter Olympics an energy efficient and climate friendly event.

We hope you are able to join us in February for this unique discussion. The registration fee is \$50 per person, including lunch. Please register by February 8th by going to the Resource Development Council's website, www.akrdc.org. Early registration will help guarantee you a spot.

Sincerely,

Mark Begich
Mayor

Event Sponsors:

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	Alaska Forum on the Environment
Alaska Conservation Solution	Alaska Village Electric Cooperative
Alaska Power Association	ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc.
B P Exploration (Alaska), Inc.	Municipality of Anchorage
Green Star	Resource Development Council for Alaska
Renewable Energy Alaska Project	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
The Nature Conservancy	

Community, Security, Prosperity



AK Forum on the Environment 2008
Alaska Business Roundtable on Climate Change
Minimizing Our Impact While Preparing for Change
Thursday, February 14, 2008

- 8:15 – 8:30** **Welcome:** *Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich*
- 8:30 – 8:45** **Remarks from Governor Palin’s Climate Change Sub-cabinet**
Larry Hartig, Commissioner, AK Department of Environmental Conservation
- 8:45 – 9:00** **CLIMATE ALERT: SCIENCE TO PROMOTE ACTION**
Larry Hinzman, University of Alaska Fairbanks
- 9:00 – 9:15** **U.S. Coast Guard Responds to Changing Mission in the Arctic**
Rear Admiral Arthur E. (Gene) Brooks, Commander, 17th Coast Guard District
- 9:15– 9:45** **Greening the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games**
Ken Baker, Consulting Director, Environmental Sustainability VANOC – Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games
- 9:45 – 10:15** **Break (Hybrid Electric Car video, gratis National Rural Electric Cooperative Association)**
- 10:15 – 11:30** **Alaskan Efforts to Adapt to Climate Change**
- **Village Solutions: A Case Study - Meera Kohler, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative**
 - **Plight of Rural Villages - Steve Ivanoff, Unalakleet &/or Stanley Tom, Newtok**
 - **Streets and other Public Infrastructure – Mike Coffey, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities**
- 11:30 – noon** **Oil and Gas Sector - Randy Armstrong - Shell Oil – U.S. Climate Change Strategy**
- noon – 1:00** **LUNCH SPEAKER: THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**
Mattia Romani, UK Government’s Stern Review Team
- 1:00 – 1:30** **State and Federal Policy and Legislative Update**
Peter Larsen, The Nature Conservancy
- 1:30 – 1:45** **Break (Hybrid Electric Car video)**
- 1:45 – 3:00** **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategies - What you can do**
- *Sean Skaling, Green Star (Moderator)*
 - *Jean Marie Guzzetti, Green Star*
 - *Eric Bilyou, Major Marine Tours*
 - *Kevin Stalder, Driven Auto Body*
 - *Tony Lazenby, Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center*
- 3:00 – 3:30** **CAN COAL BE CLEAN? NEW EFFORTS TO REDUCE COAL’S NEGATIVE IMPACT**
Roger Wicks, VP Anglo American
- 3:30 – 3:45** **Developing Tools & Information to Adapt to Changing Environment – Mead Treadwell, Arctic Research Commission**
- 3:45 – 4:00** **FULL GROUP DISCUSSION – AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

[Conveners: AK Conservation Solutions, AK Department of Environmental Conservation, AK Power Association, AK Village Electric Cooperative, BP, ConocoPhillips, EPA, Green Star, Municipality of Anchorage, Renewable Energy Alaska Project, Resource Development Council, The Nature Conservancy]

Subject: Press Release: Habitat Division to Return to Department of Fish and Game

Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2008 1:08 PM

From: Yocom, Lauren J (GOV) <lauren.yocom@alaska.gov>

To: "Leighow, Sharon W (GOV)" <sharon.leighow@alaska.gov>, "Leschper, Beth (GOV)" <beth.leschper@alaska.gov>

Cc: "Yocom, Lauren J (GOV)" <lauren.yocom@alaska.gov>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

08-013

Habitat Division to Return to Department of Fish and Game

February 5, 2008, Juneau, Alaska - Governor Sarah Palin today announced the Habitat Division will be returning to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The decision to return habitat permitting functions to the Department of Fish and Game acknowledges that the responsibilities of Habitat Division are better aligned with the overall mission and structure of the Department of Fish and Game.

After an extensive review, Governor Palin, Natural Resources Commissioner Tom Irwin and Fish and Game Commissioner Denby Lloyd concluded that the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting has done an outstanding job of fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the Department of Natural Resources.

However, the move is expected to improve communications and avoid duplication of efforts while allowing Habitat Division to operate in the same manner it has at DNR to encourage responsible development and protect Alaska's resources.

"We are absolutely committed to the protection of wildlife habitat," Governor Palin said. "But we are just as committed to responsible development of our other resource industries such as oil and gas, mining and timber, and we're going to make sure that development occurs through strong oversight and cooperation between the departments."

The Governor emphasized that both departments share in the State's mission for responsible conservation and resource development and recognize that balancing these two functions is an integral part of their stewardship responsibilities.

"The department and I are committed to bringing these two functions together

and making them work,” said Commissioner Lloyd.

Both DNR and ADF&G commissioners acknowledge that Alaska’s natural resources have not suffered because of the location of the habitat function at DNR. DNR and ADF&G are committed to continuing and supporting the successful work that OHMP has achieved while at DNR.

“I have nothing but praise for the professional staff and the work that OHMP has accomplished at DNR,” Commissioner Irwin said. “I am committed to making this transfer successful and we will work closely with the ADF&G to ensure that we are working together to achieve resource development with protection for Alaska’s great environment.”

The Governor will submit an Executive Order to the legislature to return fish habitat permitting responsibilities to the Department of Fish and Game. Detailed planning for the move will begin immediately and movement of personnel and supervision will occur by July 1, 2008.

###

Alaskans Against the MINING SHUTDOWN

For Immediate Release
Contact: Willis Lyford
January 25, 2008
907-868-3202

ALASKANS UNITE TO STOP MINING SHUTDOWN *New Statewide Coalition Of Concerned Alaskans Formed To Stop Anti-Mining Ballot Initiatives*

Anchorage, AK – A new statewide coalition of Alaskans concerned about the negative effects on Alaska of two proposed ballot initiatives was announced today. Alaskans Against the Mining Shutdown will direct a statewide campaign to defeat two statewide ballot initiatives which would have the effect of shutting down existing mines and prohibiting future mines in Alaska. The campaign today notified the Alaska Public Offices Commission of its intention to register as a ballot measure group should these measures be certified for the ballot by Alaska Lt. Governor Sean Parnell.

"The end result of the ballot initiatives would be a shutdown in jobs, a shutdown of a rapidly growing sector of Alaska's economy and, for many communities, a shutdown of hope. These initiatives would have a devastating effect on Alaska's mining families, and be a serious economic blow to rural communities and the economy statewide," said Marie Greene of Kotzebue, a founding member of the campaign committee and president of NANA Regional Corporation.

Other founding members of the campaign committee include Kristin Cole of Wasilla, Bill Corbus of Juneau, Hugh Fate of Fairbanks, Robert Favretto of Kenai, Cheryl Frasca of Anchorage, Ernie Hall of Anchorage, Mark Langland of Anchorage, Matthew Nicolai of Anchorage, Vicki Otte of Anchorage, Mark Pfeffer of Anchorage, Ramona Reeves of Fairbanks, John Sandor of Juneau, Helvi Sandvik of Anchorage, William Sheffield of Anchorage, John Shively of Anchorage, Rick Solie of Fairbanks, Arliss Sturgulewski of Anchorage, Dan Sullivan of Anchorage, Jim Taro of Ketchikan, Tim Towarak of Nome, Mead Treadwell of Anchorage, Jim Whitaker of Fairbanks, Bill Williams of Ketchikan, and Mayor John Williams of the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Willis Lyford, an Anchorage marketing and public affairs executive, will serve as the campaign's director headquartered in Anchorage, and Timothy Sullivan, Jr. of Anchorage, a longtime Alaska government affairs consultant, will serve as campaign field director.

"Alaskans Against the Mining Shutdown (AAMS) will bring together concerned Alaskans from across the state," remarked Lyford, "The mining shutdown is bad for hard working Alaskans and their families as the initiatives would rob our communities and the Alaska Native population of a significant source of jobs and revenue. The initiatives are also bad policy as they would arbitrarily override the state and federal environmental and scientific review process. Over the upcoming months we'll be expanding our statewide organization to stop the shutdown."

Among the groups already publicly opposing the anti-mining ballot measures are the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the ANSCA Regional Corporation President's Association, representing the leaders of many Alaska Native corporations.

###

Alaskans Against the MINING SHUTDOWN

January 2008

Overview

ALASKANS SHOULD OPPOSE THE ANTI-MINING INITIATIVES

So-Called "Clean Water" Initiatives Would Shutdown Alaskan Mines, Jobs, Revenue and Opportunity

INITIATIVES WOULD SHUTDOWN EXISTING MINES AND PROHIBIT FUTURE MINES

DNR's Director Of Mining, Land And Water Richard Mylius: "Mining Will Be Impossible" under initiatives. "The third prohibition in 07WATR prohibits the storage or disposal of metallic mineral mining wastes and tailings...' All large-scale metallic mineral mines have wastes and tailings... Such wastes and tailings must be disposed of or stored in land or water. If land and water may not be used to store or dispose of wastes and tailings that generate chemicals, mining will be impossible."

(Richard Mylius, Deposition In The Superior Court For The State Of Alaska Third Judicial District At Dillingham, 8/28/07, p. 3-4)

INITIATIVES WOULD ARBITRARILY OVERRIDE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC REVIEW PROCESS

- A decision to prohibit or allow a new or existing mining project should not be made until all necessary environmental studies have been completed.
- Alaskans benefit from a rigorous and open review process.

INITIATIVES WOULD SHUTDOWN THOUSANDS OF EXISTING AND FUTURE JOBS

- State report finds Alaska's mining industry employed over 3,000 full-time employees and added almost 200 new jobs In 2006.*
- A shutdown of Alaskan mining would affect thousands of jobs because mines and mining employees purchase goods and services from local businesses. **
- Mining workers live in over 100 communities throughout Alaska, often in rural areas where few other jobs are available. **

INITIATIVES WOULD SHUTDOWN SIGNIFICANT SOURCES OF REVENUE TO RURAL COMMUNITIES, NATIVE ALASKANS AND THE STATE

- Mining provides \$175 million a year in state government revenue through royalties, rents, fees, And taxes. **
- Mining provides \$14 million a year in local government revenue, including property taxes and payments in lieu of taxes. **
- Mining provides \$170 million a year in payments to Alaska Native Corporations. **
- An estimate by the state of Alaska predicts the initiative could cost the state billions in lost revenues. "One state estimate projected that the initiative could cost the state \$10 billion in lost revenues over the next 30 to 40 years." ***

FOOTNOTES:

* (Elizabeth Bluemink, "State Mineral Industry Value Rises More Than \$1 Billion," Anchorage Daily News, 3/22/07)

** (The McDowell Group, "The Economic Impacts of Alaska's Mining Industry," January 2008)

*** (Stefan Milkowski, "Clean Water Initiatives Aimed At Pebble Could Reach Far Beyond," Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, 1/2/08)

Alaskans Against the MINING SHUTDOWN



INITIATIVES WOULD SHUT DOWN EXISTING MINES AND PROHIBIT FUTURE MINES

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) DIRECTOR OF MINING, LAND AND WATER RICHARD MYLIUS SAYS INITIATIVES WILL SHUT DOWN MINING

"Mining Will Be Impossible" Under Initiatives. "The third prohibition in 07WATR prohibits the storage or disposal of metallic mineral mining wastes and tailings All large scale metallic mineral mines have wastes and tailings. . . . Such wastes and tailings must be disposed of or stored in land or water. If land and water may not be used to store or dispose of wastes and tailings that generate chemicals, mining will be impossible."

(Richard Mylius, Deposition In The Superior Court For The State Of Alaska Third Judicial District At Dillingham, 8/28/07, p. 2-3)

Initiatives Would Prohibit Existing Mines From Renewing Or Obtaining New Permits. "In sum, if the bill proposed by 07WATR were to be enacted into law, it would effectively prohibit new large scale metallic mineral mines in Alaska. It would make new mining impossible. To the extent that the bill applies to existing large scale metallic mineral mines, it would prohibit such mines from expanding or obtaining new or renewing permits. Many of the authorizations for existing large mines require periodic revision and renewal, this bill could prevent such renewals." (Richard Mylius, Deposition In The Superior Court For The State Of Alaska Third Judicial District At Dillingham, 8/28/07, p. 4)

Initiatives Would Prohibit New Mines. "07WATR would effectively prohibit new large scale metallic mineral mines in Alaska because each of the five prohibitions prohibits certain uses of land or water by large scale metallic mining operations in Alaska." (Richard Mylius, Deposition In The Superior Court For The State Of Alaska Third Judicial District At Dillingham, 8/28/07, p. 4)

Initiative Would Severely Impact Mining And "Would Make New Mining Impossible." "Mylius, in an affidavit presented to the Alaska Superior Court, also defended the state's water quality standards and projected that the first clean water initiative would severely impact mining. 'It would make new mining impossible,' he wrote. 'To the extent that the bill applies to existing large scale metallic mineral mines, it would prohibit such mines from expanding or obtaining new or renewing permits.'" (Stefan Milkowski, "Clean Water Initiatives Aimed At Pebble Could Reach Far Beyond," *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, 1/2/08)

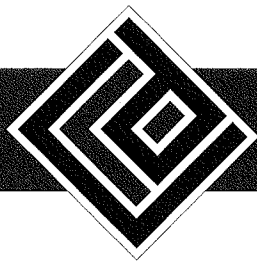
Initiative's "Exemption" For Existing Mines "Wouldn't Work." "The first clean water initiative exempts major mines that have all their operating permits by the time the initiative goes into effect. Mylius said the exemption likely wouldn't work because existing mines often need new permits." (Stefan Milkowski, "Clean Water Initiatives Aimed At Pebble Could Reach Far Beyond," *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, 1/2/08)

ALASKA SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE FRED TORRISI SAYS INITIATIVES WILL BAN MINING

"Accepting All Of These Arguments Still Leaves Us With The Conclusion That The New Large Metallic Mines Will Be Banned For The Foreseeable Future If The Initiative Becomes Law." "What the plaintiffs say instead is that 07WATR does not affect small mines, that it doesn't apply to existing mines and that by its terms the initiative "merely places a number of restrictions upon how mining is done. . . ." But accepting all of these arguments still leaves us with the conclusion that the new large metallic mines will be banned for the foreseeable future if the initiative becomes law, and it makes sense to start from this premise." (Judge Fred Torrissi, Memorandum Of Decision On Motions For Summary Judgment, Case No. 3DI-07-56 CI, 10/12/07, p. 8)

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST LAND OFFICE (TLO) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FORMER DNR COMMISSIONER HARRY NOAH SAYS INITIATIVES WILL SHUT DOWN MINING

Initiatives "Would Effectively Prevent Large Scale Metallic Mineral Mining On TLO And Other Lands." "The adoption of 07WATR I would effectively prevent large scale metallic mineral mining on TLO and other lands. . . . The adoption of 07WATR III, as it written, also would effectively prevent large scale metallic mineral mining on TLO and other lands." ('Harry Noah,' Notarized Affidavit In The Superior Court For The State Of Alaska, Fourth Judicial District At Fairbanks, 12/31/07)



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January 18, 2008

Water Docket
Environmental Protection Agency
Mailcode 2822T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Attention: EPA-HQ-OW-2007-0282

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to your solicitation for public comments on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance on Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the consolidated cases *Rapanos v. United States and Carabell v. United States*.

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is a statewide, non-profit business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism and fisheries industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor and industry support firms. Our purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through responsible resource development.

Rapanos was a 5-4 decision, with no majority opinion of the Court. Therefore, the lower federal courts will have much to quibble about in interpreting the ultimate meaning of *Rapanos* as applied to dredge and fill permitting under the Clean Water Act.

In *Rapanos*, Justice Scalia's plurality opinion held that the phrase "waters of the United States" as used in the CWA "includes only those relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water 'forming geographic features' that are described in ordinary parlance as 'streams...oceans, rivers, and lakes.'" When applied to wetlands, Justice Scalia's opinion held "only those wetlands with a continuous surface connection to bodies are 'waters of the United States' in their own right, so that there is no clear demarcation between 'waters' and wetlands."

But Justice Kennedy's concurring opinion held that the Corps should have federal jurisdiction over those wetlands that have a "significant nexus" to navigable waters of the United States – a standard that must be applied on a case-by-case basis. Given that there was no majority opinion in *Rapanos*, it is unclear exactly what standard lower courts will apply in determining the Corps' jurisdiction. Most recently, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has held that Justice Kennedy's "significant nexus" test is the controlling opinion in *Rapanos*. See *San Francisco Baykeeper v. Cargill Salt Division*, 481 F.3d 700 (9th Cir. 2007); *Northern California River Watch v. City of Healdsburg*, 496 F.3d 993 (9th Cir. 2007).

Under either Justice Scalia's opinion, or Justice Kennedy's concurring opinion, however, the Corps no longer appears to have the same broad authority to assert – as it did prior to *Rapanos* – federal jurisdiction under the CWA over transitory, ephemeral, or intermittent "waters," or wetlands with a "mere hydrological connection" to "waters of the United States." As Justice Scalia explained in his opinion, the CWA "simply does not authorize the 'Land is Waters' approach to federal jurisdictions" that the Corps had been asserting.

Agency guidance, jurisdictional determinations and other relevant actions must be consistent with the Court's decision in *Rapanos*. At a minimum, according to Justice Kennedy's concurrence, for a wetland to "possess the requisite nexus" to fall within the ambit of the CWA (and therefore the Corps' federal jurisdiction), the wetlands "either alone or in combination with similarly situated lands in the region" must "significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of other covered waters more readily understood as 'navigable.'"

The Supreme Court's divided message in *Rapanos* at least made clear that the Corps cannot assert jurisdiction for dredge and fill of wetlands that have only a tenuous connection to navigable waters. In such a case, the applicable state/local governmental regulatory agency has jurisdiction over any wetland dredge and fill permitting required under applicable state/local environmental laws and regulations, if any. Agency guidance must reflect the Court's intent in its decision in *Rapanos*, as outlined above.

Permitting Issues:

Following the Court's decision, the guidance developed by the agencies requires the Corps to "document in the administrative record the available information regarding whether a tributary and its adjacent wetlands have a significant nexus with a traditional navigable water..." The guidance points out that documentation is increasingly important for sites as the distance from a navigable water increases. In addition, the guidance requires a description of wetland functions and other attributes. While these directives are reasonable, such documentation is likely to result in significant delays in the permitting process. Such delays are

even more likely in icy arctic areas where a significant nexus to a traditional navigable water may be difficult to determine. Moreover, delays are likely in many areas of Alaska where field work is limited by the short duration of the season. All told, it is likely that documentation requirements will result in delays of at least one year in the permitting process. Given such potential for delay, RDC encourages the Corps to:

1. Immediately fund an effort to identify jurisdictional boundaries in areas where a substantial number of permits are likely to be requested, even before permit applications are filed;
2. Consider interim guidelines that could be applied while jurisdictional boundaries are identified.

The Corps should consider how changes in jurisdiction might affect existing permits and permit requirements. For example, permits that require rehabilitation or restoration efforts including up to ten years of monitoring may have been issued for projects that are no longer on jurisdictional wetlands based on guidelines stemming from the *Rapanos* decision. Active permits should be addressed and permits holders notified within one year if permit conditions still apply.

Given Alaska's unique conditions, any revised or new guidance provided by the Corps should include regional guidance with examples or case studies. Development of regional guidance should include broad participation in the process from the regulated and regulatory communities. Likewise, the revised form the Corps and EPA are developing for field regulators for documenting the assertion or delineation of CWA jurisdiction should be specific to Alaska. Development of both national and regional forms should be a public process, open to review and comment.

Agency guidance should recognize Alaska's unique circumstances. While scarcity is an overriding concern elsewhere in the nation, the sheer abundance of wetlands in Alaska is an important element to take into consideration (Alaska contains more wetlands than all other states combined). Alaska is a state with substantial, remote wetlands. Often there are challenges associated with identifying a nexus to traditional navigable waters, especially in ice-rich regions. The limited field season and the lack of understanding of functions for some types of Alaskan wetlands are two other challenging elements that should be recognized.

Last, we were troubled by the fact that the existing guidance contemplates that elevated jurisdictional determinations have no established timeframe for resolution at EPA and Corps headquarters. This presents a significant issue for developers who need predictable timeframes for permitting. We strongly

encourage the agencies to develop and identify a specific time frame (e.g., 30 days) for making decisions on elevated jurisdictional determinations.

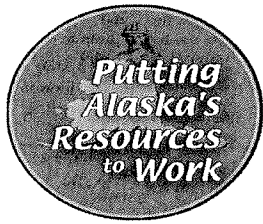
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue. RDC encourages the EPA and Corps to combine their best efforts and issue guidance that clearly reflects the intent of the *Rapanos* decision and includes regional guidance recognizing the special nature of Alaska.

Sincerely,

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
For Alaska, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl Portman", written in a cursive style.

Carl Portman
Deputy Director



PUTTING ALASKA'S RESOURCES TO WORK

"IT'S PRIME TIME!"

Monday, March 3, 2008
BP Energy Center

Registration Due February 22, 2008

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Please see web site for complete details and downloads.

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Hotel Captain Cook



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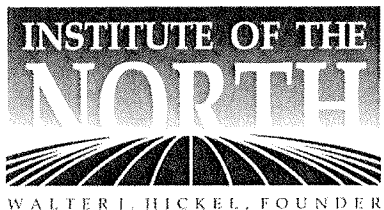
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Alaska Miners Association 21st Fairbanks Biennial Conference

Arctic International Mining Symposium

March 18 - March 22, 2008
Westmark Fairbanks Hotel & Conference Center
Fairbanks, Alaska

For more information contact:
Alaska Miners Association
Fairbanks Branch
P.O. Box 73069
Fairbanks, AK 99707-3069



Phone: (907) 474-7388
Fax: (907) 474-6635
Jessica Potrikus <rnjmp@uaf.edu>
Paul Metz <ffpam@uaf.edu>
URL: www.arcticminers.org
Web Master: Rajive Ganguli

Deadline for Early Registration is February 18, 2008

The 2008 Fairbanks Biennial Conference: Arctic International Mining Symposium welcomes and needs Sponsors. All levels of sponsorship accepted. Please contact Bill McDonnell (907) 456-6861
Email: William.b.mcdonnell@wellsfargo.com

Short Courses

Alaska Mineral Aggregates and Construction Materials, Tuesday March 18
Dr. Paul Metz – University of Alaska, Fairbanks: (907) 474-6749, Email: ffpam@uaf.edu

The Short Course is open to all. Participants need not be an AMA member and need not be registered for convention. The short course reviews Alaska's historical production of these commodities, published geological and engineering data available in Alaska, and focuses on market opportunities for new aggregate and construction material ventures. Specific topics included in the course are: an overview of the availability of construction materials in Alaska, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) aggregate needs, materials information from maps, materials testing, and property rights and construction materials. The course will convene from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Westmark Hotel, Fairbanks. Registration Fee: \$125, includes lunch.

Lecturers: Dr. Paul Metz – University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Thomas Bundtzen – President, Pacific Rim Geological Consultants.

Permitting of Large Mining Projects, Tuesday March 18

Tom Crafford – Alaska Department of Natural Resources (907) 269-8629, tom.crafford@alaska.gov

The Short Course is open to all. Participants need not be an AMA member and need not be registered for convention. This short course shall provide an overview of the DNR large mining project permitting process, including case examples. The course will convene from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the Westmark Hotel, Fairbanks. Registration Fee: \$125, includes lunch.

Lecturer: Tom Crafford, Large Mine Project Manager, Office of Project Management and Permitting

Career Planning Panel for High School and Beyond, Wednesday March 19 "What a Kid Needs to Know for a Career in the Minerals Industry"

Dr. Rajive Ganguli – University of Alaska, Fairbanks: 907-474-7212, Email: ffrg@uaf.edu
or Don Gray: 907-457-5737, Email: dcgray@mosquitonet.com

The Short Course is open to all. Participants need not be an AMA member and need not be registered for convention.. Two panels of select university and industry representatives discuss what preparation in high school and beyond is needed by potential job-seekers in the worldwide mining industry. Tips to prepare for openings in mining and the minerals industry for HS grads to PhD's.

Technical Sessions

David Szumigala, Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys: (907) 451-5025; Email zoom@dnr.state.ak.us, Rajive Ganguli: (907) 474- 7212; Email: ffrg@uaf.edu

Morning Sessions 8 – 11:00 AM

Wednesday Morning, March 19
Placer Deposits, Aggregates and Industrial Minerals

Wednesday Afternoon, March 19
Mine Operations

Thursday Morning, March 20
Arctic Mineral Deposits

Afternoon Sessions 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Thursday Afternoon, March 20
Northern and Interior Alaska Geology

Friday Morning, March 21
Impact of Arctic Climate Change

Friday Afternoon, March 21
Overview of Current and Planned Infrastructure Projects Related to Mining

Poster Sessions

Gang Chen, Department of Mining & Geological Engineering: (907) 474-6875; ffgc@uaf.edu

Posters will be displayed during the duration of the Conference. Presentations will feature detailed project level investigations as well a regional overviews of mineral tracts throughout Alaska.

Field Trips

William Brophy, Usibelli Coal Mine: (907) 452-2625 ext. 232, Email bill@usibelli.com

Field Trip # 1: Pogo Gold Mine – Tuesday, March 18, 2008. Depart Westmark Hotel at 7 a.m. by bus to tour the new Pogo Mine located 145 km southeast of Fairbanks in the upper Goodpaster River Valley. The Pogo deposit has a defined probable gold resource of 7 million tonnes grading 16.12 g/t. The Pogo Mine began production in 2006 with expected annual gold production of 350,000 to 450,000 ounces over the 10 year life of the mine. Register early. Seats are limited. First come, first served. Registration fee: \$250.

Field Trip #2: Fort Knox Mine Tour – Saturday, March 22, 2008. Depart Westmark Hotel at 8 a.m. by bus to tour the Fort Knox Mine operated by Fairbanks Gold Mining Co., subsidiary of Kinross Gold Corp. This open-pit mine is 42 km northeast of Fairbanks and mined by conventional open pit methods. The Fort Knox Mine will have produced 4 million ounces of gold by the time of the field trip at an average grade of 0.025 ounces per ton (0.857 g/t) Au. A new heap leach facility is projected to continue gold production through 2017. Registration fee: \$125.

Trade Show

Karl Gohlke, Frontier Plumbing Supply Inc.: (907) 374-3500, Karl@FrontierPlumbing.com

A three-day trade show held at the Westmark Hotel is a staple of the conference and offers an opportunity to visit companies and government agencies offering products and services to support Alaskan mining projects. The trade show is open to conference registrants and the general public.

Conference Schedule

	Tuesday March 18	Wednesday March 19	Thursday March 20	Friday March 21	Saturday March 22
Breakfast	Field Trip to Pogo Gold Mine departs from Westmark Hotel MSHA Miners Refresher Course 8:00 am, NC Machinery Co.	Buffet 7 a.m.	Miners & UAF Breakfast 7 a.m.	Buffet 7 a.m.	Field Trip to Fort Knox gold mine departs from Westmark Hotel
Morning Session	Short Course Alaska Mineral Aggregates and Construction Materials- Westmark 8 a.m. – 12 pm Short Course Permitting Large Mining Projects - Westmark 8 a.m. – 12 pm	Placer Deposits, Aggregates, and Industrial Materials 8 - 11 a.m.	Arctic Mineral Deposits 8 – 11 a.m.	Impact of Arctic Climate Change 8 – 11 a.m.	
Luncheon	Short Course Lunch	Luncheon	Luncheon	Luncheon	
Afternoon Session	Short Course continued 1 - 5 p.m.	Mine Operations 2 – 5 p.m. Career Planning Panels 2 – 3:15 p.m.	Northern and Interior Alaska Geology 2 - 5 p.m.	Overview of Current and Planned Infrastructure Projects Related to Mining 2 - 5 p.m.	
Evening		Suppliers Cocktail Reception 5 – 8 p.m. AMA Board Meeting 7 – 8 p.m.	Miners Hall of Fame Reception & Presentations 6:30 – 9 p.m.	Miners Reception & Banquet 6 – 10 p.m.	

Conference Schedule Travel Information

Jessica Potrikus (907) 474-7388; Email: rnjimp@uaf.edu

Hotel

The Westmark Fairbanks Hotel & Convention Center is providing rooms at the special rates of \$89US (single or double) and \$109US (Suite). Reserve your room early. To receive these rates, you must contact Westmark Hotel directly at: (800) 544-0970 and identify yourself as a registered participant in the AMA Biennial Conference.

Special Events

Three Day Trade Show

A three-day trade show and suppliers' exhibit will feature products and services available to support mineral ventures in Alaska. A special room adjacent to the Trade Show is being provided to suppliers who wish to make scheduled presentations about their products and services during the Conference (**Attention prospective Trade Show exhibitors** - Please contact Karl Gohlke-(907) 374-3500 Email KarlG@FrontierPlumbing.com to reserve exhibit space and presentation times.)

Suppliers Reception

The official ice-breaker for the Conference is Wednesday, March 19 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. This reception is well attended and is an excellent opportunity to network with colleagues a wide range of industry suppliers. Registration includes a ticket for one drink. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided courtesy of the trade show exhibitors and reception sponsors. Meet old friends and make new acquaintances.

Daily Luncheons

The Conference Committee has made a special effort to engage authoritative luncheon speakers for each day of the Conference. Be in the know. Space is limited. Reserve your seat by registering today!

Miners & Friends of UAF Breakfast

Thursday morning March 20, 7:00 a.m. Enjoy an early start to a full day of conference activities with a real miner's breakfast and an update on the University of Alaska Mining and Geological Engineering Programs and the evolution of the UAF School of Mineral Engineering to a part of the College of Engineering and Mines. Space is limited.

Miners Hall of Fame

Thursday evening, March 20, 6:30-9:00 p.m. A reception and evening program to recognize the contributions that have been made by Alaska's mining pioneers. This event is a highlight of the Conference and is always of great interest to miners and the general public.

Miners Reception & Banquet

Friday evening, March 21, at the Westmark Hotel, Gold Room, Cost: \$50.00. A full evening of enjoyment begins with a no host cocktail hour at 6:00 p.m., followed by banquet meal service to begin at 7:00 p.m. The event will include the AMEREF drawing with an extensive list of prizes. Other features of the evening will include awards presentation and a short lighthearted program. Banquet tickets may be purchased in advance or will be available at the registration booth.

AMEREF Raffle

First prize is a package of two Alaska Airline round trip tickets to any Alaska Airlines North American destination city (except the East Coast) including Mexico. In addition, the AMEREF raffle has scores of other significant prizes and there will be a silent auction for special items at the Thursday evening banquet. Raffle drawings will take place throughout the Conference, with winning tickets replaced so that early winners still have a chance for the Grand Prize. Good odds; good cause.

AMEREF Board Meeting

The AMEREF Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday, March 19.

MSHA Miners Refresher Course

A MSHA refresher course taught by Dennis Steffy is scheduled for Tuesday morning, March 18 at N. C. Machinery Co., 730 Old Steese Highway.