

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, May 1, 2008

- 1) Call to order – John Shively, President
- 2) Self Introductions
- 3) Headtable Introductions
- 4) Staff Report – Carl Portman, Deputy Director
- 5) Program and Keynote Speaker:

Statewide Energy Plan

Steve Haagenson, Executive Director and State
Energy Coordinator, Alaska Energy Authority

Next Meeting: May 15: Point Thomson: A Commitment To Produce, Craig Haymes, Alaska Production Manager, ExxonMobil

Please add my name to RDC's mailing list

NAME/TITLE: _____

COMPANY: _____

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CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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33rd Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 4, 2008, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel • Noon (Doors open 11:15 a.m.)

ENERGY KEEPERS

Energy Killers

Featuring:

**Roy Innis, Chairman
Congress of Racial Equality**



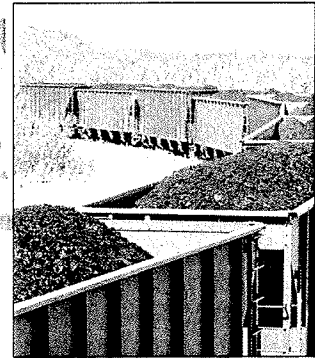
Keynote speaker Roy Innis is an icon of the American civil rights movement. He currently serves as Chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), a group that has threatened to sue the Department of the Interior if the polar bear is listed under the Endangered Species Act because such a listing would drive up energy prices and hurt America's working poor more than any other element of society.

His recent book, *Energy Keepers Energy Killers*, has sparked a nationwide energy debate. Innis warns of the far-reaching implications of the national campaign to block new oil, gas, and coal development. Those who want to stop development of fossil fuels, restrict the use of energy, impose higher taxes, and enact impossible carbon emission standards will send the economy into a tailspin, Innis says.

"Oil, gas, coal and other resources on America's citizen-owned public lands could meet U.S. energy needs for centuries. Developing these resources, with full regard for ecological values, would generate jobs, economic growth and tax revenues, stabilize energy prices, and reduce our need to buy oil from unfriendly countries." – Roy Innis

"Energy is the 'master resource.' Everything else depends on it. With abundant, reliable, affordable energy, anything is possible, and Americans make dreams come true. Without it, nothing happens."

– Roy Innis

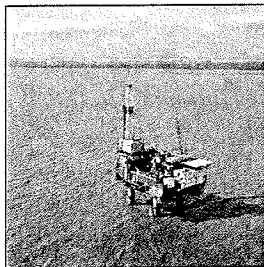


Sponsorship Opportunity

One of Alaska's largest and most popular business gatherings of the year, the RDC Annual Meeting has sold out eight years in a row! Sponsorship of this event supports vital issue and advocacy work, expert testimony before federal and state agencies, educational programs and other activities.

Our members consider their involvement in RDC an investment in Alaska and their long-term interests. Our ability to work effectively on the issues is linked to the support we receive from our members. Sponsorship promotes your company to others in the business community and demonstrates your commitment to growing Alaska through responsible resource development.

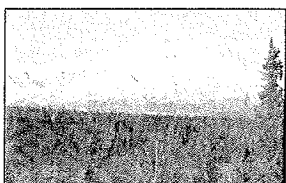
RDC appreciates your consideration of the sponsorship options on the following page. Thank you!



33rd Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 4, 2008 • Sheraton Anchorage Hotel • Noon (Doors open 11:15 a.m.)

Sponsorship Opportunities: Please respond by Friday, May 23rd to be listed in the program



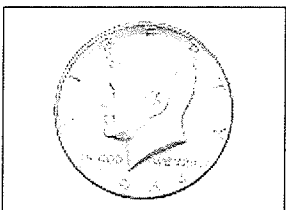
DENALI \$5,000

Denali, "The Great One," reflects the highest level of commitment and tribute to RDC and its 33 years of helping grow Alaska through responsible resource development. Includes a table of ten, premium seating, most prominent recognition in the official program and placement of your corporate banner on the main wall adjacent to the head table.



GOLD \$1,500

Includes a table of 8 at the luncheon, prominent seating and recognition at the event and in the program.



SILVER \$1,000

Includes a table of 8 at the luncheon and recognition at the event and in the program.

YES! Count on my support for RDC's 33 years of work to grow Alaska through responsible resource development.

DENALI \$5,000

GOLD \$1,500

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Company Name _____

Contact Person _____

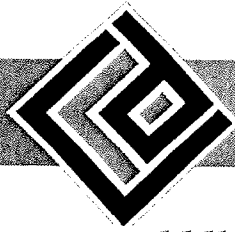
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Phone/Email _____

Sponsorship publicly underscores your support of RDC's broad-based efforts to enhance Alaska's prosperity and economic future.

Contact: Carl Portman

Phone: 907-276-0700, ext. 2, Fax: 907-276-3887, email: cportman@akrdc.org



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

What Is RDC Doing For You?

2007-08 Major Issues & Projects

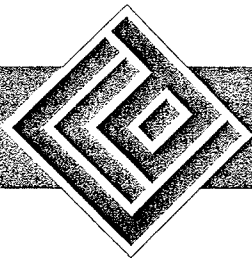
- Gas pipeline
- Mining Shutdown Initiatives
- Oil & gas leasing statewide, OCS, NPR-A
 - Yukon Flats land exchange
 - Oil production tax
 - ANWR advocacy
- Endangered Species Act: Polar bear, Cook Inlet beluga whale, Lynn Canal herring, Yellow-billed loon, Steller sea lion, SW Alaska sea otter, Steller & Spectacled eiders, North Pacific right whale
 - Global climate change
- Red Dog Mine Aqqaluk Project & tailings issues
 - Pebble project
 - Kensington project and litigation
- Mat-Su gravel mining ordinances
 - Tulsequah Chief project
 - Rock Creek Mine
 - Chuitna coal project
- Usibelli Coal Mine expansion
 - State long-term fiscal plan
 - Knik Arm Bridge
- Anchorage port expansion
- EPA vessel discharge permit
- Cruise ship legislative reform
- Tongass Land Management Plan
 - State & federal timber sales
- Essential Fish Habitat proposed rule
- Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization
 - State NPDES primacy
- Federal/State legislative & regulatory policy
- Proposed fish & game refuges in Southwest & Interior Alaska
- EPA Guidance on Clean Water Act jurisdiction following Supreme Court Rapanos decision
 - Bay Draft Management Plan & EIS
 - Cook Inlet NPDES permit
 - State mixing zone regulations
- Alaska Railroad extension to Ft. Greely and Port Mackenzie
 - Alaska Women In Resources
 - Freshmen legislative dinner
- RDC Board legislative fly-in – Juneau
- 2007 community outreach tour – Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Membership Benefits & Special Events

- *Resource Review* newsletters
- Email Updates & Action Alerts
- Corporate member link on www.akrdc.org
- Public forums & membership networking opportunities
- Annual conference on Alaska resources
- AMEREF Coal Classic Golf Tournament

Log onto www.akrdc.org

- Newsletters 1978-present
- Presentations from RDC public forums
- Action Alerts
- Industry White Papers
- Online event registration
- Links to RDC corporate member websites



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April 23, 2008

Mr. Pete Griffin
District Ranger
Tongass National Forest – Alaska Region
Juneau Ranger District
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Supplemental Information Report for the Kensington
Modified Plan of Operations

Dear Mr. Griffin:

The Resource Development Council is writing to support a determination by the U.S. Forest Service that the Modified Plan of Operations for the Kensington project does not present substantial changes to the proposed action relevant to environmental concerns. The Supplemental Information Report (SIR) for the Modified Plan presents a thorough analysis, indicating the 2004 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) does not need to be supplemented.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism and fisheries industries. Our membership also includes Native regional and village corporations, local governments, organized labor and industry support firms. RDC's mission is to help grow Alaska's economy through the responsible development of the state's natural resources.

RDC understands the SIR was prepared by the Forest Service to meet requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This analysis was preceded by three major environmental impact statements, each of which considered all the environmental effects of locating a similar, but larger tailings facility at the same location.

The site evaluated for building the paste tailings facility (PTF) is the same site as was studied for locating the dry tailings facility (DTF), except that it is smaller and involves a smaller footprint. The PTF has additional advantages over the DTF, which was fully permitted in 1998. The environmental community has

supported advancing the paste option as a better environmental alternative over the DTF. Other advantages include the fact that paste tailings are applied at a higher density and require less space than the DTF. They also allow for enhanced water recovery, reducing water consumption. Another advantage is the PTF berm will be less than half the height of the dry stack option. Moreover, all water making contact with the tailings will be recycled or treated, meeting zero discharge requirements. Finally, the closure/reclamation strategy is simple and straight forward. There are no long-term water treatment requirements for the encapsulated tailings.

RDC agrees with the Forest Service's initial determination that the change for tailings storage from Lower Slate Lake to the paste tailings facility would not affect the environment in a significant manner not already considered in the previous three EIS/SEIS processes. Existing NEPA regulations allow for and encourage agencies to rely on existing documents, particularly those prepared by the lead agency.


The PTF will incorporate the existing National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) outfall previously permitted after a NEPA analysis. The PTF will also use the existing water treatment facility, which has been shown to be effective in meeting state and federal water quality standards.

RDC would also like to note the proposed use of Yankee Cove for transportation of workers eliminates effects associated with the Cascade Point facility, opposed by environmental groups. The Yankee Cove facility is fully permitted and privately-owned. The move would not substantially change the transportation effects studies in the 2004 SEIS.

In conclusion, the SIR prepared for the paste tailings option at Kensington meets all NEPA requirements. Given the thorough analysis provided in the SIR and three previous EIS supported by over 1,000 studies, there is no need for a new SEIS or EIA.

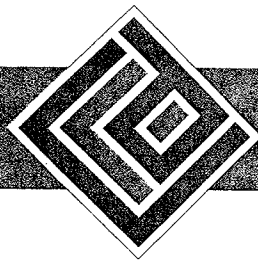
Sincerely,

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
For Alaska, Inc.



Carl Portman
Deputy Director

Cc: Tom Henderson, Coeur Alaska
Dennis Wheeler, Coeur d'Alene Mines Corp.
Hahn Shaw, EPA
Victor Ross, Corps of Engineers
Governor Sarah Palin



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April 23, 2008

Senator Ted Stevens
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0201

Re: Supporting Sealaska Corporation's Land Entitlement
Legislation, H.R. 3560

Dear Senator Stevens:

The Resource Development Council is writing to express its support for H.R. 3560, a bill which would finalize land entitlement conveyances to Sealaska Corporation.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism and fisheries industries. Our membership also includes Native regional and village corporations, local governments, organized labor and industry support firms. RDC's mission is to help grow Alaska's economy through the responsible development of the state's natural resources.

In 1971, Congress enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) to recognize and settle the aboriginal claims of Alaska Natives to their traditional homelands by authorizing the establishment of Alaska Native corporations to receive and manage lands and funds awarded in settlement of the claims. The purposes of ANCSA were not only to settle the land claims of Alaska Natives, but to provide them with a means to pursue economic development and create sustainable economies for the benefit of Alaska's Native people. However, more than 35 years after the passage of ANCSA, the land conveyances have yet to be completed.

Since 1971, many Alaska Native corporations have become successful and powerful economic engines within their regions and throughout the State of Alaska. Sealaska is the single largest private employer in Southeast Alaska, providing 600 to 800 part-time and full-time jobs annually, and contributing as much as \$90 million each year to the Southeast Alaskan economy. Sealaska also provides a significant benefit to Alaska

121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 250, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2035

Phone: (907) 276-0700 Fax: (907) 276-3887 Email: resources@akrdc.org Website: www.akrdc.org

Natives across the state through its annual 7(i) revenue sharing contributions, which have totaled over \$300 million.

Sealaska would now like to engage in a comprehensive land entitlement and conservation initiative, allowing it to complete its land entitlement by making cultural and economic land selections outside of the original withdrawal areas. In return, it would allow removal of the encumbrance created by the withdrawal of lands for Alaska Native selection in Southeast Alaska. If Sealaska does not receive conveyance of all of the lands to which it is entitled in the near term, the primary economic activity of Sealaska – logging – will cease in the near term, which will impact Southeast Alaska's Native people, the Southeast Alaska economy, and Alaska Native corporations throughout the State that have come to rely upon Sealaska's 7(i) contributions.

The Resource Development Council strongly supports the enactment by the United States Congress of a bill to complete Sealaska's ANCSA land entitlement to allow the corporation to continue to help meet the economic needs of our Native people and their corporations throughout Alaska.

Please see the attached resolution the RDC Executive Committee adopted on this legislation. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding our position on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
For Alaska, Inc.

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

Jason Brune
Executive Director



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

RDC Action Alert: Yukon Flats NWR Land Exchange

[View RDC's Comment Letter](#)

Comment Deadline Extended to May 19, 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:

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 Street

Submit written comments to:

Yukon Flats EIS Project Office

c/o ENSR

1835 South Bragaw, Suite 490

Anchorage, AK 99508

Submit on-line comments at http://yukonflatseis.ensr.com/Yukon_Flats/Comments.aspx

To save time, consider submitting the draft letter below, with edits of your own choosing. For those who wish to compile their own comments, please refer to the bullet points following the comment letter.

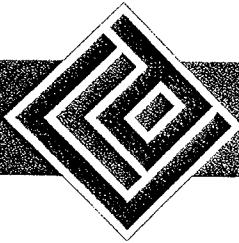
[View the Suggested Comment Letter](#)

Points to consider for your comments:

- 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.

Comment Deadline Extended to May 19, 2008

Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.
121 West Fireweed, Suite 250 Anchorage, AK 99503
resources@akrdc.org Phone: 907.276.0700 Fax: 907.276.3887



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March 25, 2008

Yukon Flats EIS Project Office
c/o ENSR
1835 S. Bragaw, Suite 490
Anchorage, AK 99508

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC), I am writing to support the proposed land exchange in the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge between Doyon Limited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. RDC strongly supports the Proposed Action Alternative and Alternative 1.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism and fisheries industries. Our membership also includes Native regional and village corporations, local governments, organized labor and industry support firms. RDC's mission is to help grow Alaska's economy through the responsible development of the state's natural resources.

RDC has followed this issue since its inception and supported the land exchange in a previous comment period. With release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), RDC continues to believe the proposed land exchange is in Alaska's best interest.

The exchange would allow the Service to achieve its conservation goals and consolidate land ownership. It would allow the agency to acquire many of the highest-priority fish and wildlife habitats on Doyon lands. In fact, as stated in the DEIS, "there would be a net gain of water bodies and fish habitat, high value waterfowl habitat, wildlife habitat, aquatic mammal species, known cultural resource sites, and lands for subsistence use." The Service would end up administering more land, with consolidation of surface ownership and reduced refuge boundaries.

The land exchange would allow Doyon to consolidate its holdings within the Yukon Flats as well, improving the economics of drilling for oil and gas. While the entire flats show favorable signs of oil and gas, the highest petroleum potential lies under land proposed for exchange.

It is important to recognize that Doyon will likely proceed with oil and gas development on its existing lands inside the refuge, even if the land

swap does not happen. Under the terms of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Doyon would have the right to cross refuge lands, including the lands that the corporation would have gained in the exchange, to develop the corporation's oil and gas interests. After all, the Yukon Flats Refuge was established after Doyon selected its lands -- for the purpose of future development. Before the refuge was created, Doyon recognized the potential for significant oil and gas discoveries in the Yukon Flats Basin and worked with villages in the region to maximize future development of the resource.

Regardless of whether oil and gas is ever discovered, the land exchange is a gain for the national wildlife refuge system. Doyon would relinquish a larger area of surface land than it would gain, including high-value habitat. Under the proposed trade, Doyon would turn over 150,000 acres rich in fish and game resources. In exchange, Doyon would receive oil and gas rights to 200,000 prospective acres. However, Doyon would have surface rights to less than 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 Service. In addition, Doyon would reallocate 56,000 acres of remaining entitlement within the refuge to locations outside the refuge.

The benefits of the land exchange to Doyon, its shareholders, the State of Alaska and the nation are significant. The Yukon Flats could hold large 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 by Petrotechnical Resources of Alaska estimated 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 the Cook Inlet Basin and could hold two Alpine-size oil fields.

If commercial discoveries of oil and gas are confirmed, billions of dollars would be pumped into Alaska's economy. State revenues would grow and new energy supplies would flow into local and energy-hungry Lower 48 markets. 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 could create 1,000 or more good-paying jobs. It would help fulfill the promise of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 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 and their shareholders – Alaska Natives.

At recent public hearings on the EIS, opponents of the proposed exchange claimed it would set a precedent for oil and gas development inside refuges and that such development is incompatible with the refuge. We strongly disagree. First, historical

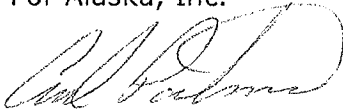
record and reality clearly show responsible development is already occurring in national refuges, including the Kenai National Wildlife refuge in Southcentral Alaska. Second, oil and gas development can take place in compliance with strict state and federal laws and regulations, mitigating impacts and protecting surrounding resource values. In fact, if Doyon is successful in finding and developing oil and gas, less than one percent of the Yukon Flats would be disturbed, leaving vast areas available for subsistence and other multiple-use activities.

In concluding, while the EIS may have some minor deficiencies, RDC believes it represents a comprehensive and thorough analysis. The exchange is certainly in the best interest of Alaska and the nation. It will benefit Doyon shareholders and is a win-win for the refuge and Doyon. RDC strongly supports the land exchange and encourages the Service to immediately move forward with the Proposed Action Alternative or Alternative 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on this important issue.

Sincerely,

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
For Alaska, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Portman', written over a faint, circular stamp or watermark.

Carl Portman
Deputy Director

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Proceeds benefit AMEREF, Register by June 4, 2008

[Registration Form \(sponsors & teams in pdf\)](#)

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Alaska Coal Association

16th Annual



Coal Classic

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