

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, October 2, 2014

1. Call to order – Ralph Samuels, President
2. Head Table Introductions
3. Self introductions
4. Staff Report – Rick Rogers, Executive Director
5. Program and Keynote Speaker:

Update on AIDEA Projects Across Alaska

Mike Catsi

Business Development and Communications Officer
Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority

Next Meeting:

Thursday, October 16: Alaska Industry Workforce Development Plans: Meeting the Needs of Alaskans, Commissioner Dianne Blumer, Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development

Please add my name to RDC's contact list:

Name/Title: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____



PRESS RELEASE

Karsten Rodvik
External Affairs Officer
907.771.3024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 24, 2014

AIDEA Congratulates Vigor for Ferries Award *Ketchikan Shipyard to Build Alaska Class Ferries for Marine Highway*

(Anchorage) – The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) congratulates the Vigor Alaska team for their distinction in being selected to build Alaska’s two newest ferries at AIDEA’s Ketchikan Shipyard.

“As owner of the shipyard, AIDEA is proud to be part of the community,” said AIDEA Board Chairman Dana Pruhs. “Our work in partnership with Vigor, the City of Ketchikan and Ketchikan Gateway Borough has helped make the shipyard a center of economic activity for the region. We are very excited for what the future holds.”

Vigor Alaska, a Vigor Industrial company, operates Ketchikan Shipyard for AIDEA. The facility includes a 130,000 square foot state-of-the-art Assembly and Production Hall that has helped make the shipyard competitive on a global level. Ketchikan Shipyard currently employs approximately 165 people. The contract to build two new Alaska Marine Highway System ferries is expected to generate an additional 60 to 80 jobs per year for four years, adding \$22.3 million in wages to the local economy, plus \$9.8 million in local spending with contractors and vendors, for a total direct economic impact of \$32.1 million.

“The award of this key project to Ketchikan Shipyard is one of tremendous significance for the community,” said AIDEA Executive Director Ted Leonard. “We thank Governor Parnell, members of the Alaska Legislature and our Congressional delegation for your dedication and support of the shipyard.”

Ketchikan Shipyard builds and services all types of vessels with a primary focus on vessels operating in Alaska waters. The shipyard also serves as the primary maintenance facility for the Alaska Marine Highway System.

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is a public corporation of the state. AIDEA’s purpose is to promote, develop and advance the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Alaska.

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Investing in Alaskans aidea.org



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September 30, 2014

Regional Forester

USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region

Attn.: 2800 Manual Supplement

P.O. Box 21628

Juneau, AK 99802-1628

Via email: FS-comments-alaska-regional-office@fs.fed.us

Re: Proposed U.S. Forest Service Manual Chapter 2800

To Whom It May Concern:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) is writing to comment on the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) proposed supplement to the part of the Forest Service Manual (FSM) that guides mining operations on Admiralty Island and Misty Fiords national monuments in Southeast Alaska

RDC is an Alaskan 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. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

RDC does not believe the additional FSM Supplement is necessary, and urges the U.S. Forest Service to halt its efforts to develop the unrequired and unnecessary Supplement. RDC is concerned the new Supplement will delay existing processes, without added benefit to the national monuments. Further, RDC is concerned the Supplement will conflict with existing FSM policies, as well as the intent of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

Additional Supplement not needed

RDC is concerned the USFS took it upon itself to develop this unneeded Supplement. There is not a legal requirement, nor precedence for the USFS to develop directives to clarify how to apply ANILCA in regards to mining operations in the two national monuments.

Mining within the two national monuments on the Tongass National Forest – Admiralty Island and Misty Fiords – is already subject to a complex set of legal requirements as provided in ANILCA, most of which apply only to these two national monuments. The

proposed supplement is unnecessary since the existing regulatory and permitting process provides extensive protection to our lands, wildlife and other resource users.

The Supplement may delay existing processes

RDC is concerned the Supplement will hamper the existing rigorous, yet lengthy permitting process. Mining operations in Alaska must undergo review of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a multi-year review, and the scientifically based permitting process that includes over 60 major state and federal permits and authorizations.

It is a priority of RDC to promote and defend the integrity of Alaska's permitting process and advocate for predictable, timely, and efficient state and federal permitting processes based on sound science and economic feasibility.

The Supplement may conflict with FSM policies and the intent of ANILCA

The lack of clarity in the Supplement raises concern the guidance will be binding instead of clarifying. The Supplement if adopted, should be consistent with existing FSM policies, and not result in further confusion. Additionally, it should reduce potential for legal disputes and not hinder the intent of ANILCA.

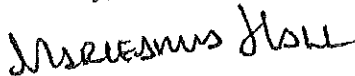
Conclusion

Lastly, RDC requests the USFS to fully address the detailed concerns and comments submitted by Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company (09/30/2014), an RDC member.

RDC urges the USFS to withdraw the proposed Supplement, and allow for existing policies, regulations, and processes to remain in place.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Marleanna Hall
Projects Coordinator



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September 16, 2014

Water Docket, Environmental Protection Agency

Mail Code 2822T

Attn.: Docket ID No. EPA-R10-OW-2014-0505

1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

Washington, DC 20460

Via email to ow-docket@epa.gov

Re: Docket #EPA-R10-OW-2014-0505

To Whom It May Concern:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) is writing to comment on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Proposed Determination of the U.S EPA Region 10 Pursuant to Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

RDC is an Alaskan 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. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

RDC requests the EPA withdraw its Proposed Determination, and discard the flawed Bristol Bay Assessment. EPA's efforts in this case are establishing a dangerous precedent for future projects in Alaska and around the United States. These efforts are denying Alaskans fair and due process, as well as the ability to develop a healthy economy. RDC is concerned these actions will be used in other areas around Alaska, as well as across the nation.

The EPA's proposed determination is a major federal action and is being pursued absent thorough review under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process. The Council on Environmental Quality states that it is important to note that human beings are part of the environment (indeed, that is why Congress used the phrase "human environment" in NEPA), so when an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared and economic or social and natural or physical environmental effects are interrelated, the EIS should discuss all of these effects. Not only has the EPA failed to fairly evaluate the economic and social impact of its proposed determination, it has failed to conduct the "hard look" of a wide range of alternatives as required by NEPA.

Further, RDC believes the Bristol Bay Assessment is a flawed document, based on a desired outcome: to preemptively veto the Pebble Partnership's opportunity to propose a

project. The EPA has used the process at the wrong time, and in a flawed way: determining a solution to a question instead of asking a question to find a solution.

The Proposed Determination should not be recommended or finalized

The EPA is acting outside of its authority under the CWA in its attempts to preemptively block resource development in Alaska. RDC filed an amicus brief to the pending litigation challenging the EPA's legal authority to pursue this preemptive action. EPA's actions deny project proponents fair and due process, and set a dangerous precedent for development projects in Alaska and across the nation.

RDC urges the EPA to stop its work, and wait to review the project at the proper time, when a detailed mine plan has been proposed, permits applied for, and the federal NEPA review process has been undertaken. Moreover, the Proposed Determination is preemptive, unprecedented and based on a flawed report. RDC is concerned the EPA will use this process to preemptively block future development projects in Alaska.

The Proposed Determination and potential actions undermine the stability of existing regulatory processes and set a dangerous precedent for future projects. If the EPA preemptively stops projects before they enter the permitting process, all future community and resource projects will be at risk. Preemptive action by the EPA could become a new tool opponents use to stop projects, or at a minimum, introduce significant uncertainty and delay, chilling Alaska's business investment climate. In spite of the EPA's assurances that this preemptive approach is unique to Bristol Bay, to the broader regulated community this unprecedented process adds significant uncertainty and is creating yet another unnecessary barrier to capital investment in Alaska, which is critical to the economic well-being of its residents.

Every project, no matter the size or location, should have an opportunity to be reviewed under existing legal processes. In the case of mining, there are more than 60 major permits and hundreds more from local, state, and federal agencies that must be successfully obtained. If the process determines a project as designed cannot protect the environment and other resources, it will not advance. The process will not permit one industry or resource to advance at the expense of another.

Any 404(c) action outside the existing permitting process would be an extreme case of federal overreach and represent yet another federal assault on Alaska sovereignty. The Pebble mineral deposit is not located on federal land, nor inside a refuge or park. It is located on state land designated for mineral exploration. The State of Alaska depends on the responsible development of natural resources on its lands to diversify and support its economy.

Information on potential impacts on the North Fork Kaktuli River, South Fork Kaktuli River and Upper Talarik Creek watersheds, and downstream reaches of the Nushagak and Kvichak Rivers

The EPA requested more information on the rivers and creeks in the Pebble deposit area. To continue to study the area streams and rivers during the permitting process is the responsible way to attain more information.

Additionally, The EPA's stream mile "impacts" must be put in to context with a detailed explanation. The proposed determination describes the following far-reaching yet arbitrary limitations:

- Loss of streams: The loss of five or more miles of streams with documented salmon occurrence (coho, Chinook, sockeye, chum, pink); or the loss of 19 or more miles of streams where salmon are not documented, but that are tributaries of streams with documented salmon occurrence.
- Loss of wetlands, lakes, and ponds: The loss of 1,100 or more acres of wetlands, lakes, and ponds that connect with streams with documented salmon occurrence or tributaries of those streams.
- Streamflow alterations: Streamflow alterations greater than 20 percent of daily flow in nine or more

linear miles of streams with documented salmon occurrence.

The EPA's use of "any or all" of the above limitations indicates that any one of the limitations could halt a project, whether it be a community or industry project. The EPA's actions in this case are completely arbitrary as the flawed Bristol Bay Assessment presents no scientific evidence of specific harm to fish from a mine at the Pebble deposit. The EPA should only rely on the best available science, and should not base its decisions on arbitrary figures.

Potential mitigation actions that could compensate for mining the Pebble deposit

RDC urges the EPA to allow the project to go through the regulatory and review process, as this will not impact other resources or the environment. However, not allowing this due process is hurting Alaskans and the nation. Mitigation measures cannot be determined without a detailed mine plan and the thoroughness of the permitting process. The EPA should only rely on thorough and best-available science to make decisions on projects.

The EPA's failure to acknowledge and accept proven mitigation strategies in Alaska undermines the cornerstone of responsible development. Mitigation is essential to all industries and the progress of how it is implemented is important and should not be ignored. The EPA's conclusion that the productive capacity of the fish habitats in the subject watersheds cannot be materially improved upon is arbitrary and not based on any meaningful, detailed analysis of specific mitigation strategies, strategies that would be proposed and subject to robust scrutiny during the permitting process and associated NEPA review.

Discharge of dredged or fill material

The Proposed Determination bans fill and dredging activities based on a hypothetical plan. RDC contends the decision of whether or not discharge of dredged or fill material should be prohibited or limited should be part of the permitting process. RDC further contends the appropriate agency to make a permitting decision about dredge and fill material is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the authority established by the CWA. The EPA's role in project review under the CWA is only via the permitting context.

EPA's actions unwarranted and under investigation

RDC reiterates the actions of the EPA are unwarranted at this time. Further, the agency has continued this action when litigation on their underlying authority to do so is pending in federal court in Alaska, and when its own Inspector General is currently in the process of reviewing the propriety of EPA's actions. The people of Alaska deserve to know the outcome of the investigation before any further extolling efforts to preemptively veto a project in Alaska are continued. EPA has repeatedly noted the transparency of its Bristol Bay Assessment activities to date. What could be more transparent than allowing these two processes to conclude before taking a precedent-setting action that will undermine faith in the U.S. permitting system – putting future job creating investment at risk?

Potential impacts to Alaska's economy

Article VII of Alaska's constitution mandates the State develop its natural resources for the benefit of all Alaskans, and it is the State's responsibility to objectively evaluate opportunities to balance competing interests in the best interests of its citizens. Alaska cannot do that if projects continue to be halted by overreaching outside interests.

It is estimated that in 2013, the mining industry in Alaska provided 9,100 direct and indirect jobs, with a payroll of \$630 million. Most of these jobs, with an average wage of \$100,000, were year round in over 120 Alaskan

communities. Many of these communities are rural and have few other job opportunities available. The EPA's own federal register notice demonstrates a lack of agency objectivity by extolling the value and virtues of what is admittedly a remarkable, renewable fisheries resource in the Bristol Bay watersheds, while failing to fully acknowledge the value and potential economic benefits of the world class mineral resources including Pebble. It is in the best interest of Alaskans to achieve an "all of the above" economy that benefits from its renewable and nonrenewable resources. This can only be realized by fair, scientific, and objective vetting of specific development proposals.

The Pebble Partnership has estimated the pre-mining exploration and permitting phase of the Pebble project can provide hundreds of well-paying jobs. Moreover, the Pebble Partnership has estimated the project itself, once permitted, could provide thousands of well-paying jobs, as well as millions of dollars of local and state revenue. A project of this magnitude truly deserves to be fully vetted by existing processes.

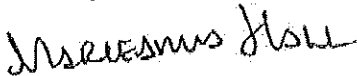
Conclusion

RDC again urges the EPA to halt this flawed process, allow project proponents to submit a detailed mine plan, file for permits, and initiate the thorough, well-vetted, existing permitting and review process including the objective NEPA process, as well as State regulatory processes. NEPA requires the permitting agencies to take a "hard look" and to consider social and economic impacts, as well as environmental impacts.

A preemptive decision, prior to permit or project application and completion of the NEPA process, is unacceptable, whether it be approval or denial of any project in any industry.

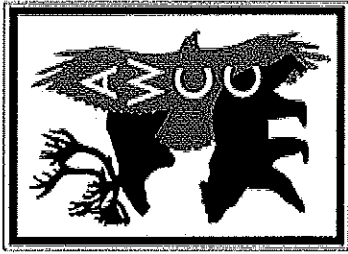
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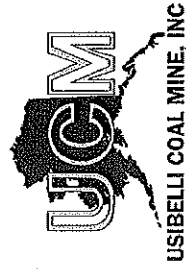


Marleanna Hall
Projects Coordinator

Thank You Sponsors



Hilcorp Alaska, LLC



RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

2014 RDC Board Outreach Trip

RDC's 35th Annual Alaska Resources Conference

Wednesday and Thursday, November 19-20, 2014
Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center
Anchorage, Alaska

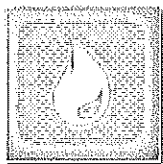
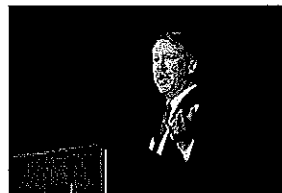
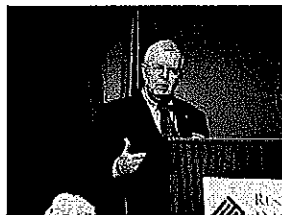
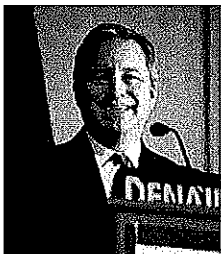
The Resource Development Council's 35th Annual *Alaska Resources Conference*, will provide timely updates on new projects, address key opportunities and challenges, and consider the implications of state and federal policies on Alaska's oil and gas, mining, and other resource development sectors. This event will also feature the latest forecasts and updates on Alaska's main industries, as well as how companies are navigating the current economic environment.

Over 1,000 people are expected to register and attend Alaska's most established and highest profile resource development forum of the year. Attendees will include decision-makers from across all resource industries, support sectors, Native corporations, federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as educators and students.

RDC would be honored to have your company sponsor the *Alaska Resources Conference*. Sponsors and attendees will be treated to a diverse and knowledgeable slate of speakers, as well as networking opportunities, such as gourmet breaks in the exhibit area, luncheons, and a VIP reception.

Your sponsorship dollars stay right here in Alaska. RDC puts them to work for its members to influence and shape state and federal public policy, encourage investment in Alaska, and grow the economy through responsible resource development.

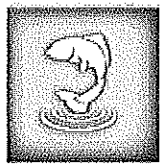
Please join us at the Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center in Anchorage on November 19-20. Thank you for your support and participation!



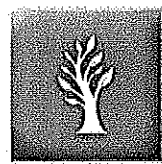
Oil & Gas



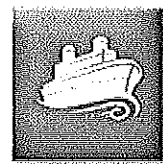
Mining



Fisheries



Forestry



Tourism

Alaska Resources Conference

Event Sponsorship & Exhibit Opportunities

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- Ten individual registrations to the conference (\$4,750 value)
 - Half-page ad in the conference program*
 - Sponsor recognition in all conference communications and the *Resource Review* newsletter
 - Display of your company logo in PowerPoint screens at the conference
- * Due Monday, November 3. Ads are 7.25" w x 4.5" h. Send ad and logo to RDC at resources@akrdc.org

Cosponsor \$3,000

- Six individual registrations to the conference (\$2,850 value)
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- Display of your company logo in PowerPoint screens at the conference

Exhibitor \$1,200 (Member), \$1,500 (Non-member)

- Exhibit booth at the conference*
 - Includes one registration to the conference (\$475 value)
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- * Reserve early as space is limited. Exhibit hall sells out each year.

**Return pledge form by October 6
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Largest attraction of the conference featuring keynote speakers and gourmet lunch.

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Every registrant's first stop! A warm buffet with a wide variety of breakfast fare.

Morning Breaks (Wednesday-Thursday) \$5,000 each SOLD OUT!

The conference stops for these popular breaks. Advertise your company with our specially-designed breaks!

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Network at an old-fashioned ice cream social event – a big crowd pleaser!

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Champagne and sparkling cider provide an elegant conclusion to Alaska's premier conference on resource development. Sponsor is welcome to deliver closing toast.

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Wrap up the opening day of the conference with a networking reception open to all conference attendees featuring cocktails and gourmet appetizers.

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A high visibility stop throughout the conference for registrants needing to charge their devices.

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Keep your corporate logo front and center throughout the event on each registrant's name tag lanyard.

RDC Grand Raffle

Donate a prize of your choice for the popular drawing held at the close of the RDC Conference.

Please fill out the following information and email to resources@akrdc.org or fax to (907) 276-3887. RDC will send an invoice or gladly accept credit card payments. Sponsorship and Exhibitor payment options are also available online at akrdc.org. Questions? Call (907) 276-0700.

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Alaska Resources Conference

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