

Mining Potential and Mineral Access in the Bering Strait Region

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Bering Straits Native Corporation

Native Corporation Lands in the Bering Strait Region

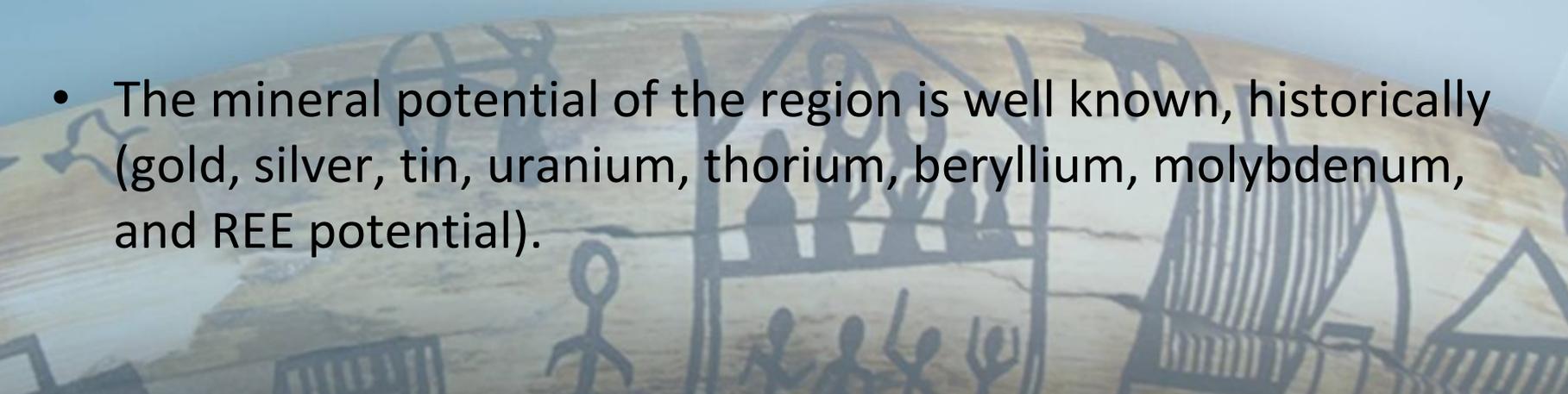


Development on Alaska Native Corporation Lands

- For the first decades after ANCSA, most corporations played a passive role in exploration and mining.
- History with development within regions varied.
- Extractive industry proposals on Native corporation lands are subject to all federal and state environmental compliance requirements.



BSNC's Land Base and Mineral Development History

- We've been a passive partner in the exploration of our ANCSA mineral estate.
 - Basic exploration and option to lease agreements have been executed with major and minor companies, beginning in the early 1980's.
 - The mineral potential of the region is well known, historically (gold, silver, tin, uranium, thorium, beryllium, molybdenum, and REE potential).
- 

Rock Creek: a mine that almost was--and may yet be--productive

- Alaska Gold Co., a subsidiary of NovaGold, began construction of the mine in 2006.
- A large area of BSNC mineral estate was contained within the development block.
- Untimely legal challenges, some poor management decisions, significant cost overruns, and the economic downturn of 2008-2009, ultimately forced the mine into maintenance and standby mode beginning in 2009.

Obstacles to Development

- Remote, arctic setting.
- Short exploration season.
- Limited/nonexistent transportation and energy transmission infrastructure.
- High costs and long supply chain.
- Energy costs prohibit ventures.
- Skilled labor and management shortages.



Chukchi Sea

Shishmaref

Inalik

Wales

Brevig Mission
Teller

Mary's Igloo

King
Is.

Bering Sea

Fish River Flats

Council

White Mtn.

Solomon

Golovin

Elim

Koyuk

Shaktolik

Norton Sound

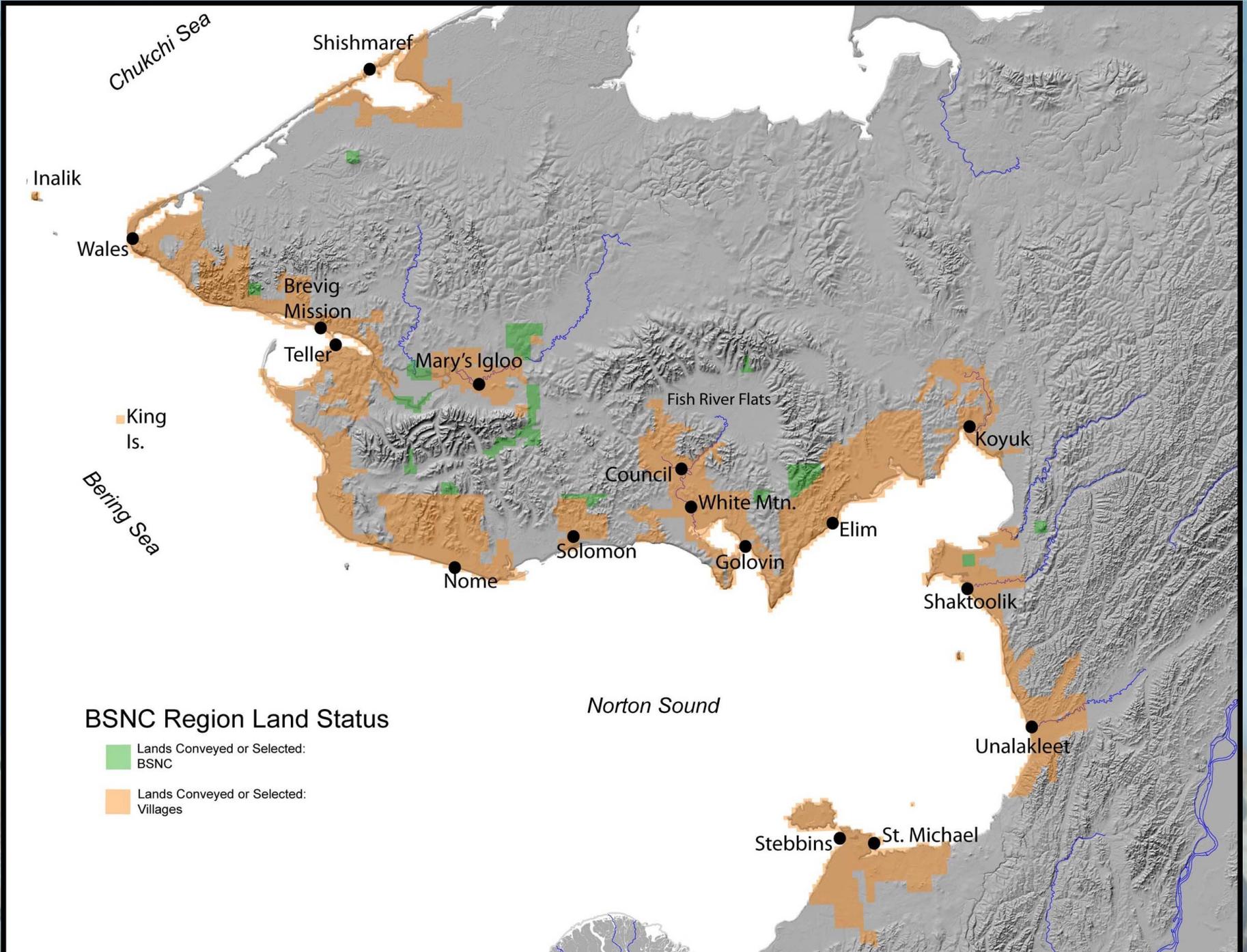
Unalakleet

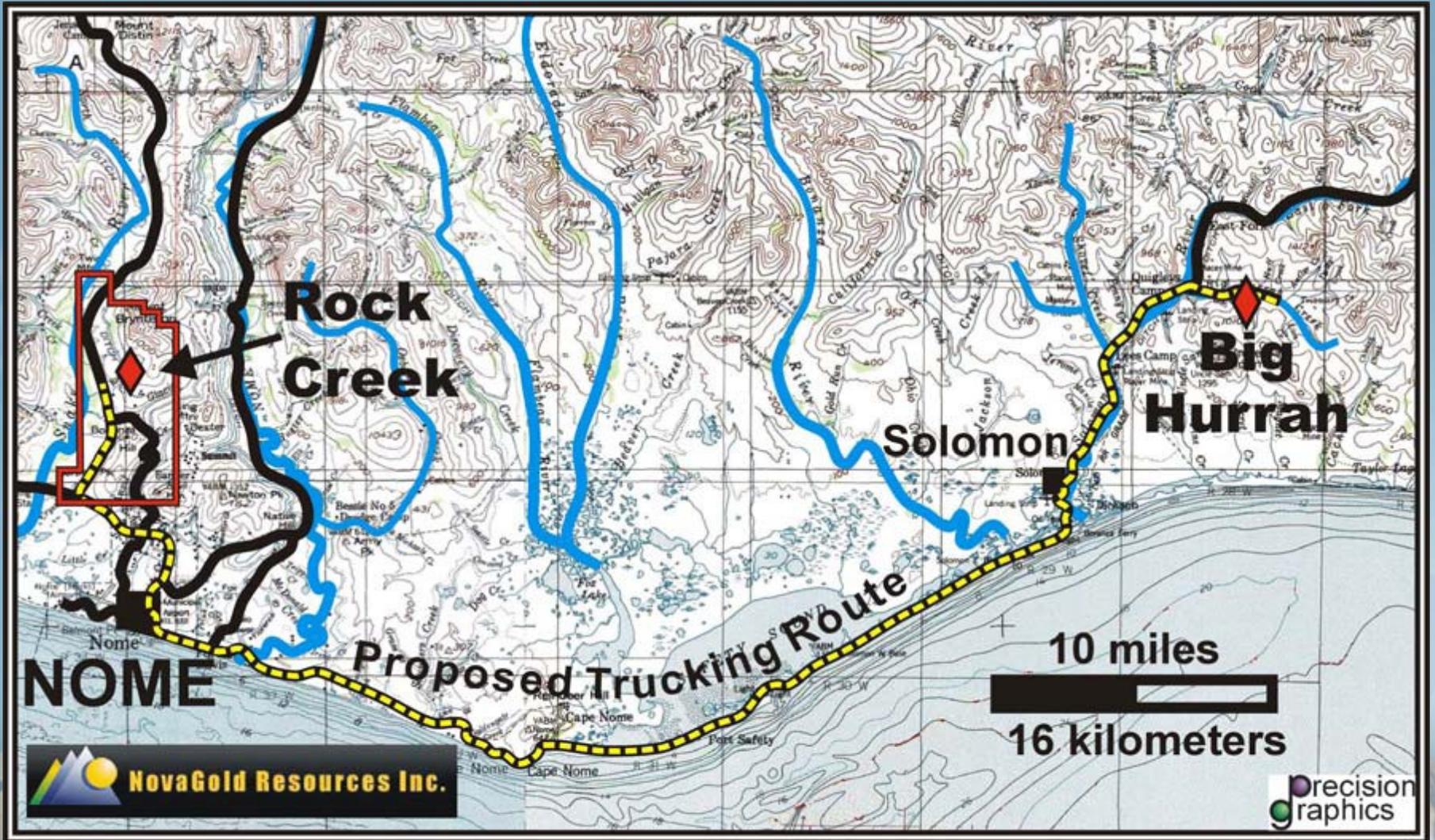
Stebbins

St. Michael

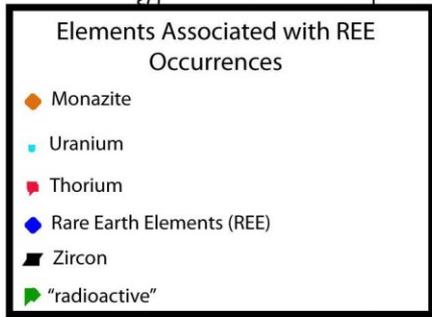
BSNC Region Land Status

-  Lands Conveyed or Selected:
BSNC
-  Lands Conveyed or Selected:
Villages



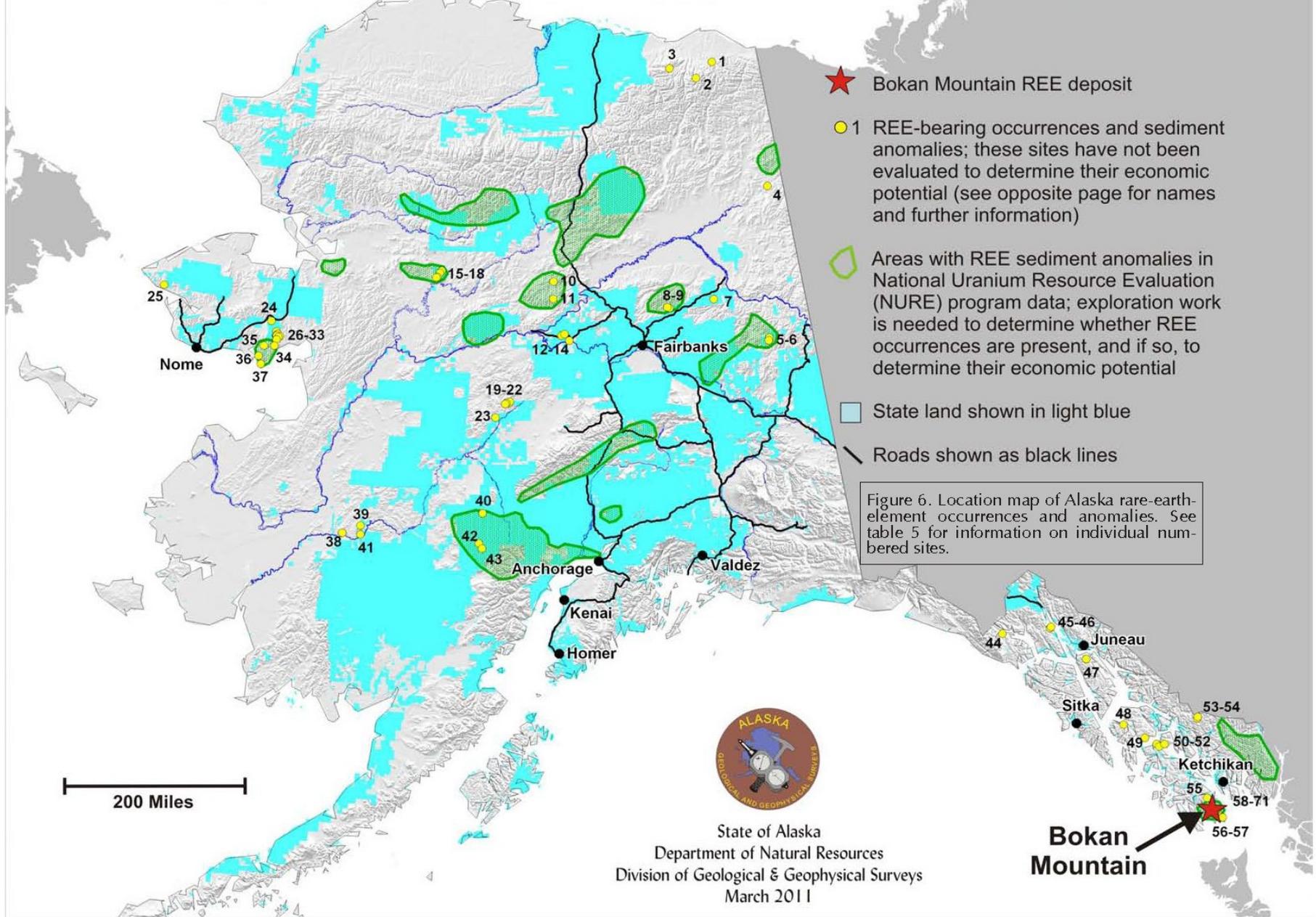


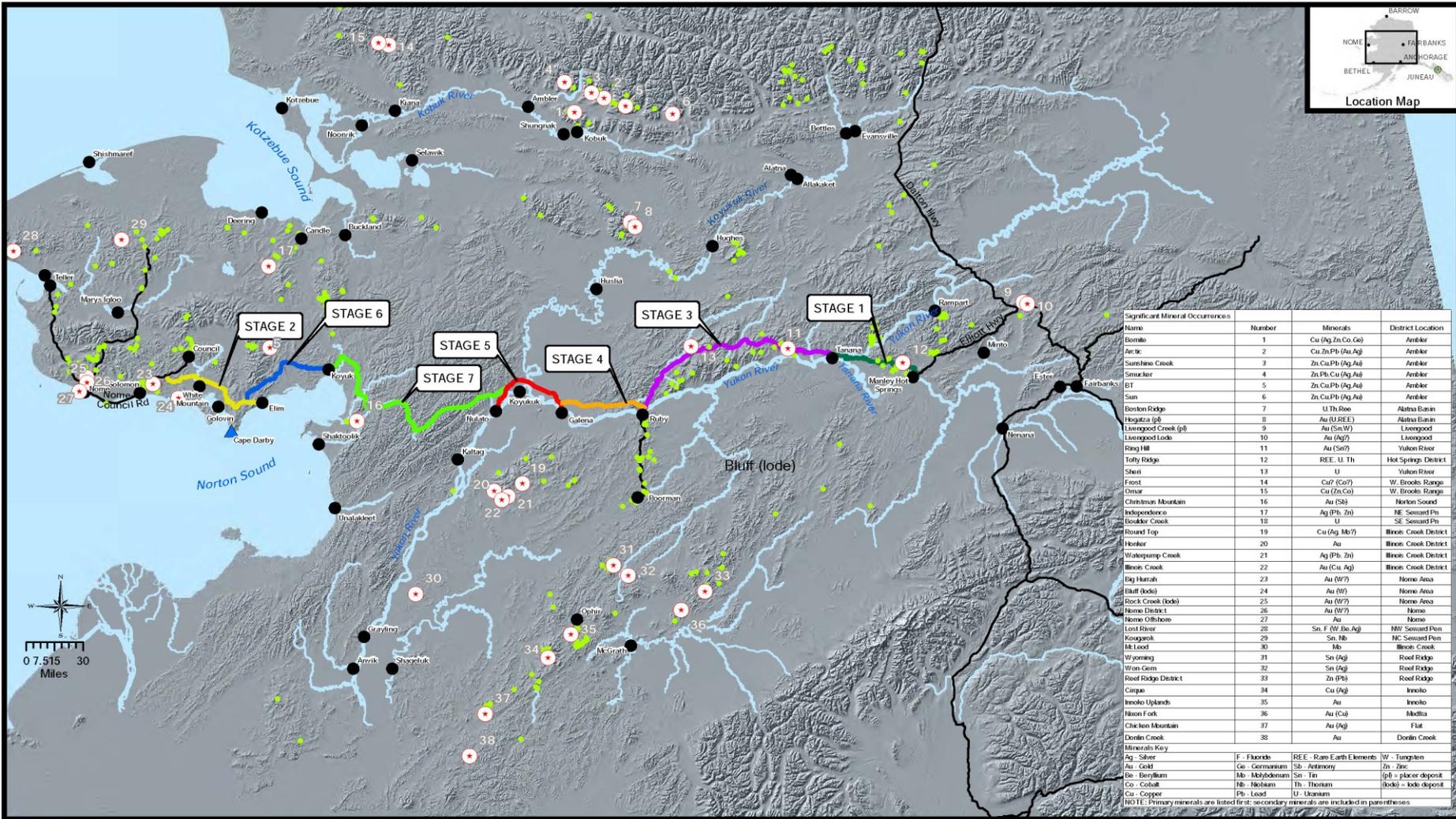
Alaska's Seward Peninsula



Map Compiled from ARDF Dataset,
aring Straits Native Corporation 2010.

ALASKA'S RARE-EARTH-ELEMENT POTENTIAL





Significant Mineral Occurrences	Number	Minerals	District Location
Dominic	1	Cu (Ag, Zn, Co, Ge)	Ambler
Aclic	2	Cu, Zn, Pb, (Au, Ag)	Ambler
Sarahine Creek	3	Zn, Cu, Pb, (Ag, Au)	Ambler
Smucker	4	Zn, Pb, Cu, (Ag, Au)	Ambler
BT	5	Zn, Cu, Pb, (Ag, Au)	Ambler
Sun	6	Zn, Cu, Pb, (Ag, Au)	Ambler
Boston Ridge	7	U, Th, Re	Alutka Basin
Hogata (g)	8	Au (U, REE)	Alutka Basin
Livingood Creek (g)	9	Au (Sn, W)	Livingood
Livingood Lake	10	Au (Ag?)	Livingood
Ring Hill	11	Au (Sn?)	Yukon River
Tofty Ridge	12	REE, U, Th	Hot Springs District
Sheri	13	U	Yukon River
Frost	14	Cu?, (Co?)	W. Brooks Range
Omair	15	Cu (Zn, Co)	W. Brooks Range
Chumtun Mountain	16	Au (Sn)	Harbor Sound
Independence	17	Ag (Pb, Zn)	NE Seward Pt
Boucker Creek	18	U	SE Seward Pt
Round Top	19	Cu (Ag, Mo?)	Illoco Creek District
Honker	20	Au	Illoco Creek District
Waterpump Creek	21	Ag (Pb, Zn)	Illoco Creek District
Illoco Creek	22	Au (Cu, Ag)	Illoco Creek District
Big Harrah	23	Au (W?)	Home Area
Stiff (beds)	24	Au (W?)	Home Area
Rock Creek (beds)	25	Au (W?)	Home Area
Home District	26	Au (W?)	Home
Home Offshoot	27	Au	Home
Loon River	28	Sn, F, (W, Be, Ag)	NW Seward Pt
Koagpak	29	Sn, Nb	NE Seward Pt
It-Loed	30	Nb	Illoco Creek
Wyorning	31	Sn (Ag)	Road Ridge
Won Gem	32	Sn (Ag)	Road Ridge
Road Ridge District	33	Zn (Ag)	Road Ridge
Casper	34	Cu (Ag)	Inoko
Inoko Uplands	35	Au	Inoko
Nixon Fork	36	Au (Cd)	Madita
Chicken Mountain	37	Au (Ag)	Flat
Dorlin Creek	38	Au	Dorlin Creek

Minerals Key			
Ag - Silver	F - Fluoride	REE - Rare Earth Elements	W - Tungsten
Au - Gold	Ce - Cerium	Sb - Antimony	Zn - Zinc
Ba - Barium	Mb - Molybdenum	Sn - Tin	(g) - placer deposit
Co - Cobalt	Nb - Niobium	Th - Thorium	(beds) - beds deposit
Cu - Copper	Pb - Lead	U - Uranium	

● Communities ⊕ Significant Mineral Occurrence Corridor Stages 4 Ruby to Galena
 — Water ● Lesser Mineral Resources 1 Manley to Tanana 5 Galena to Nulato
 — Existing Roads 2 Elim to N-C Highway 6 Koyuk to Elim 7 Nulato to Koyuk
 ▲ Potential Deep Water Port

STATE OF ALASKA
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES
 NORTHERN REGION
 WESTERN ALASKA ACCESS PLANNING STUDY
 STAGING / ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS
 REFINED YUKON RIVER CORRIDOR STAGES

Sources:
 Communities: DNR
 Water: DNR
 Existing Roads: ADOT

DATE: November 15, 2011 Figure 5



Original Yukon River Corridor

Refined Yukon River Corridor

- Communities
- ▲ Potential Deep Water Port
- Existing Roads
- Refined Yukon River Corridor
- Original Yukon River Corridor

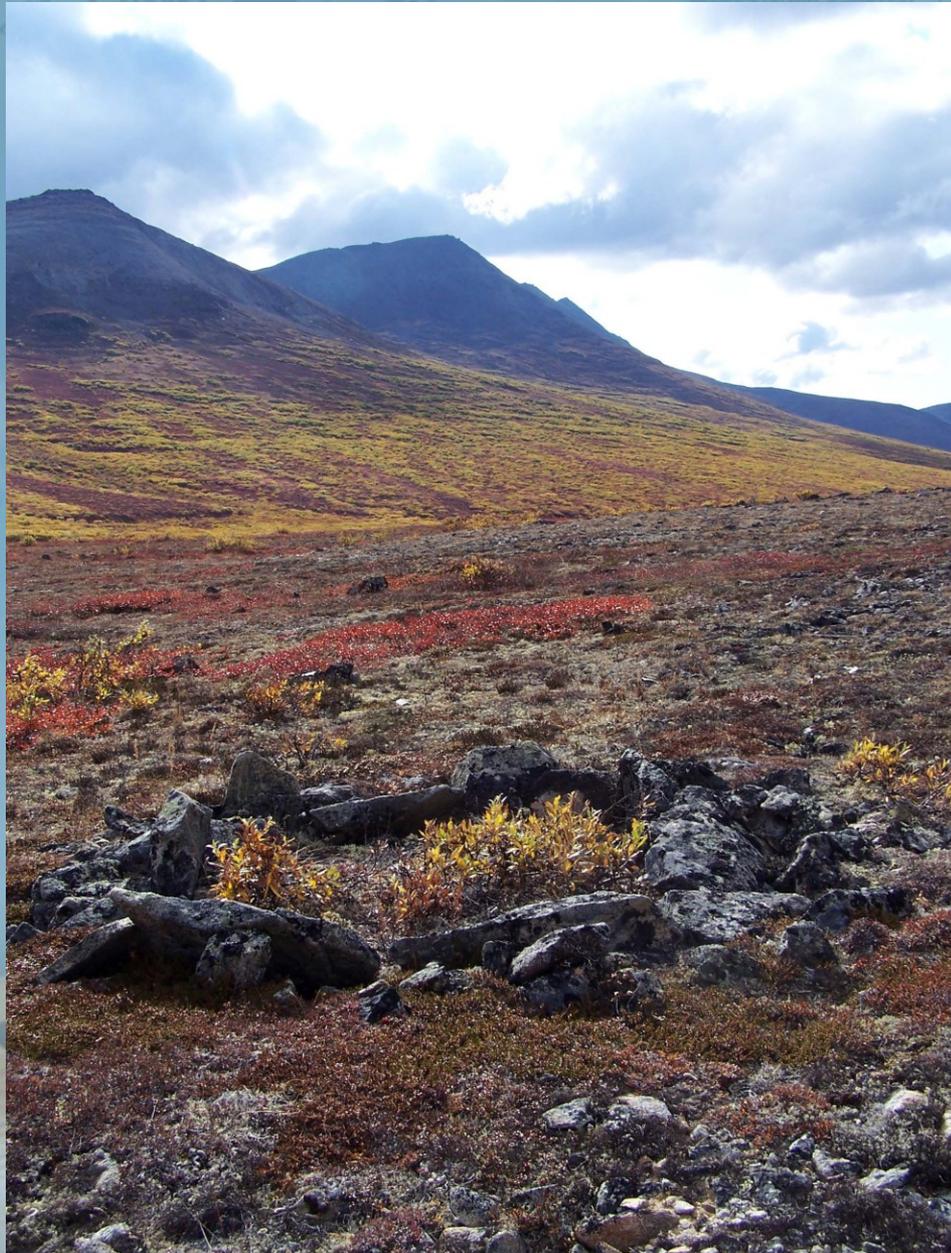
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 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES
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 STAGING / ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS
 COUNCIL TO KOYUK REFINED ALIGNMENT
 DATE: November 18, 2011

Sources:
 Communities: DNR
 Existing Roads: DOT&PF
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 Alaska Albers

Figure 3

Challenges Ahead

- “Go” or “No-go” decision for embarking upon the Nanuuq Gold Project.
- Capitalization of mine start-up.
- Development of a region-wide multi-year exploration program.
- Lobbying for transportation infrastructure improvements.
- Maintenance of work force.
- Value-added products from mining.



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