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BUTTO THE BACKSON R. V. IN C.

April 21, 1999

Jay Liggett National Park Service 2525 Gambell St, Rm 107 Anchorage, AK 99503-2892

Dear Mr. Liggett:

RE: Draft Compendia, Kennecott National Historic Site

Thank you for the opportunity to review informally the above referenced draft compendia dated 1/14/99. The State of Alaska resource agencies agree with the need to protect this sensitive site and to protect the public from the many hazards of the site. We offer two comments on the draft.

- 1. The correct citation for the federal regulation is 36 CFR 2.1(a)(5).
- 2. It appears that 36 CFR 2.1(a)(5) may provide legal authority to close the historic structures. However, this legal authority does not extend to closing the "mill town" including the area around the structures to camping. 36 CFR 13.18(a) states that "camping is permitted in park areas except where such use is prohibited or otherwise restricted by the superintendent in accordance with the provisions of sec. 13.30...". Therefore, NPS is required to follow the closure procedures provided in 36 CFR 13.18(a) and 36 CFR 13.30(e) and (f), consistent with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. These closure procedures include publication in the federal register, a minimum public comment period of 60 days, public hearings in the affected area and other locations as appropriate, and notice in a newspaper or on posted signs, or both.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments, and your willingness to discuss these issues informally over the phone. We understand that you intend to delete the proposed

camping closure from the compendia. Especially in light of our meeting with you last Fall regarding ongoing concerns we have about various park compendia, we are encouraged that you intend to observe the appropriate rulemaking process for park closures.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Alan Phipps

Project Review Coordinator

Cc: Gabrielle LaRoche, Acting Director, DGC

Tina Cunning, DFG Terry Haynes, DFG Patty Bielawski, DNR Stan Leaphart, CACFA

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