

# STATE OF ALASKA

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**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER  
Coal Regulatory Program**

May 11, 2012

**To: Distribution List**

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
PRELIMINARY FINDINGS AND DECISION  
THE CHICKALOON COAL EXPLORATION PERMIT  
E-1501**

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water received a request from Riversdale Alaska LLC, a Subsidiary of Riversdale Resources PTY LTD, Level 2, Chiefly Tower, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, 2000 to review a coal exploration application under 11 AAC 90.163. This permit would be issued for a period of two years.

The proposed exploration activities are located approximately three miles northwest of Chickaloon within all or parts of Sections 8, 12-24, and 27-32, Township 20 North, Range 5 East, of the Seward Meridian. A total of 9,927.60 acres of land are within the Chickaloon exploration area in which Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority is the owner of subsurface rights and the State of Alaska is the owner of surface rights.

The proposed exploration activities would consist of drilling up to 25 exploration holes. In order to acquire data on the groundwater resources within the exploration area, some of these drill holes may be retained as hydrologic monitoring wells. All drill sites will be reclaimed and all drillholes not retained as monitoring wells will be sealed immediately upon completion of work at the site. All equipment used on site would be removed upon completion of the exploration program.

Pursuant to 11 AAC 90.167(b) the Division has determined that a reclamation bond in the initial amount of \$89,180.00 is sufficient to cover the associated reclamation costs. Detailed bond calculations are in the permit application.

The application complies with the requirements of the Alaska Surface Coal Mining Control and Reclamation Act (AS 27.21 and 11 AAC 90). All proposed exploration and reclamation activities are consistent with 11 AAC 90.167.

Copies of the application and preliminary decision are available for review at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water, 550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 920, Anchorage, AK 99501-3577 or on our website ([www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/index.htm](http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/index.htm)). Comments regarding this application should be sent to Jennifer Keese at the address listed above, by fax at (907) 269-8930, or by e-mail at [coalprogram@alaska.gov](mailto:coalprogram@alaska.gov) with the subject "Chickaloon Coal Project". The deadline for comments is 5:00 P.M. on June 11, 2012.