

Russell Kirkham

STATE OF ALASKA

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER -- MINING SECTION

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February 22, 2010

Austin Williams
Staff Attorney
Trustees for Alaska
1026 W 4th Avenue Suite 201
Anchorage AK 99501

RE: Completeness Finding on Chuitna Citizens Coalition's Petition
Requesting, Pursuant to AS 27.21.260, Designation of Anadromous
Water Bodies and Riparian Areas Within the Chuit River Watershed as
Unsuitable for Surface Coal Mining

Dear Mr. Williams:

On January 21, 2010, the Department of Natural Resources received a petition under AS 27.21.260 by Trustees for Alaska on behalf of the Chuitna Citizens Coalition¹ and Cook Inletkeeper (collectively "NO-COALition"). The petition requests that anadromous water bodies and their associated riparian areas within the Chuit River Watershed be designated unsuitable for surface coal mining.

The department finds the petition to be administratively complete under 11 AAC 90.703(a) and contains the information required under 11 AAC 90.701(a). The department makes no other finding as to the adequacy of the petition.

The department will set a date for holding a public hearing under AS 27.21.260(b). At least 30 days before the hearing, you will be notified in writing of the date, time, and location of the hearing.

At this time, there are three permit applications related to a proposed surface coal mine within the Chuit River Watershed being reviewed by the department. If you have any further questions about the processing of the petition, please contact Russell Kirkham at 907-269-8650, or me.

¹ We believe the title of your client is misstated and should be the Chuitna NO-COALition. If this assumption is incorrect, please advise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick Fredericksen".

Rick Fredericksen,
Mining Section Chief
Division of Mining Land & Water

cc: Tom Irwin, DNR
Dick Mylius, DNR
Russell Kirkham, DNR ✓
Ruth Hamilton Heese, DOL
Glenn Waugh, OSMRE
Dan Graham, PacRim Coal
Eric Fjelstad