

## **Chuitna Coal Project Status Update for July 2008**

### **Summer informational meeting**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) appreciates the hospitality of the residents of Beluga and Tyonek for hosting the Chuitna Project informational meeting held on July 25<sup>th</sup>. During this meeting DNR staff was able to visit shore fish sites and upland areas potentially affected by the proposed project. After the tour, we were able to meet with local residents and update them on the current status of the project. Some of the issues raised by the local community included the proposed placement of the conveyor and offshore bulkhead, cultural sites in and around Ladd landing, dust coming from the conveyor and stockpiles, the projects effects on water quantity and quality, noise, access across conveyor and road corridor for current uses, current status of the project and timeline and changes in PacRims Staff. As the project is reviewed and more information becomes available, DNR's staff will continue to provide answer to these and other questions raised by the local community.

### **Status of the Chuitna Coal Project**

Last month, we notified you about the retirement of Bob Stiles and that Mine Engineers Inc are no longer the project engineers. As an interim measure, PacRim has brought in Joe Lucas from Petro-Hunt L.L.C. to be the primary contact until a replacement for Bob is hired. As a replacement for Eldon Strid and Mine Engineers, Dan Graham was hired as project engineer. Dan brings many years of experience working for Usibelli Coal mine and other oil and gas project around the state.

In July, the department created a information website about the Chuitna Coal Project:

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/largemine/chuitna/index.htm>

Currently on the website there is a brief introduction to the project and copies of previous month's newsletters. In the future, we will be making available all the presentation presented at the informational meetings and a list of all the agencies involved in permitting and reviewing this project and making portions of the permit applications available on this website.

At this time a complete permit application package for the Chuitna Coal Project has not been submitted to the Division and no formal review under AS 27.21 and 11 AAC 90 has been initiated. Once the entire permit application package has been submitted an evaluation of the completeness of the application and of the cumulative impacts of the project can be undertaken.

During the month of March, no additional project items were received from PacRim. Project related documents submitted to date to the Department of Natural Resources are shown on the attached table.

### **Other State and Federal Permits**

In addition to ASCMCRA permitting requirements, the Chuitna Coal Project must address the concerns of other state and federal agencies. As part of the Department of Natural Resources statutory role as lead agency in matters relating to exploration, development and management of mining activities, the DNR Office of Project Management and Permitting has developed a document describing some of the permits and approvals to help the public understand the permitting of mines in Alaska. This document and other useful information are available on the web at:

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/largemine/index.htm>

### **Petition to Designate the Chuitna River Watershed Unsuitable for Surface Coal Mining Operations**

On February 14, 2008 the Commissioner for the Department of Natural Resources issued a decision in response to the request from Trustees for Alaska on behalf of the Petitioners to reconsider his prior decision. In his letter, the commissioner decided to affirm his July 16 2007 decision. In the original decision the commissioner found that, 1. LMU-1 lands are ineligible from the petition process, on the grounds that they had previously been reviewed, underwent a comment period, and a decision to issue the permit was made, 2. the petition regarding the remainder of the “Chuitna River watershed” is incomplete, because the petitioners do not adequately describe how their interests are adversely impacted within the Chuitna Watershed, 3. the petition is frivolous because it covers too sweeping and arbitrary an area unsupported by evidence that reclamation of wetlands cannot be accomplished, and 4. assumes that applicable standards and regulations for surface coal mining operations cannot prevent the harms claimed in the allegations.

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Trustees for Alaska appealed the Commissioner for the Department of Natural Resources final decision to the Superior Court of the State of Alaska.

### **Chuitna Project SEIS**

As part of the federal NEPA process the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) would be prepared for the Chuitna Coal Project. Scoping for the SEIS was completed in August of 2006. Currently agencies are reviewing the available baseline data in preparation to write the Draft SEIS. During March, EPA, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and AK Dept of Natural Resources met with the company to discuss the status and timeline for the SEIS. Included in these discussions were updates to the companies proposed action and alternatives to be considered in the SEIS.

Information concerning the SEIS process can be found at:  
<http://www.chuitnaseis.com/>

# Chuitna Coal Project Permit Application

## ASCMCRA Permits/Project Components

	Chuitna Coal Project (Baseline)	Chuitna Coal Mine (CCM)	Chuitna Infrastructure (CPI)	Ladd Landing Development (LLD)
<b>Part A: APPLICATION AND MINE SITE IDENTIFICATION</b>	N/A			X
<b>PART B: LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE INFORMATION</b>				
B1) IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTS	N/A			X
B2) COMPLIANCE INFORMATION	N/A			X
B3) AUTHORITY TO ENTER	N/A			X
B4) AREAS UNSUITABLE FOR MINING	N/A			X
B5) PERMIT TERM INFORMATION	N/A			X
B6) OTHER LICENSES AND PERMITS	N/A			X
B7) LIABILITY INSURANCE	N/A			X
<b>PART C: ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES INFORMATION</b>				
C1) CULTURAL AND HISTORIC INFORMATION AND MAN-MADE FEATURES	U	N/A	N/A	N/A
C2) HYDROLOGY AND GEOLOGY (GENERAL INFORMATION)	X	N/A	N/A	N/A
C3) GEOLOGY DESCRIPTION	X	N/A	N/A	N/A
C4) GROUND WATER INFORMATION		N/A	N/A	N/A
C5) SURFACE WATER INFORMATION		N/A	N/A	N/A
C6) ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY INFORMATION		N/A	N/A	N/A
C7) CLIMATOLOGICAL INFORMATION	X	N/A	N/A	N/A
C8) VEGETATION INFORMATION	X	N/A	N/A	N/A
C9) FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION	U	N/A	N/A	N/A
C10) SOIL RESOURCES INFORMATION	X	N/A	N/A	N/A
C11) LAND USE INFORMATION	X	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>PART D: OPERATION AND RECLAMATION PLAN</b>				
D1) OPERATION PLAN	N/A	X	X	X
D2) EXISTING OPERATIONS, STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES	N/A	X	X	U
D3) COAL TRANSPORTATION AND HANDLING	N/A		X	U
D4) BUILDINGS, ROADS AND OTHER FACILITIES	N/A	X	X	U
D5) BLASTING PLAN	N/A	X	X	X
D6) AIR POLLUTION CONTROL PLAN	N/A	X	X	X
D7) FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION PLAN	N/A	X	X	X
D8) RECLAMATION PLAN: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND BONDING	N/A	U	U	U
D9) BACKFILLING AND GRADING PLAN	N/A	X	X	X
D10) TOPSOIL HANDLING PLAN	N/A	X	X	X
D11) REVEGETATION PLAN	N/A	X	X	X
D12) PROTECTION OF THE HYDROLOGIC BALANCE	N/A	X	X	X
D13) POST MINING LAND USE	N/A	X	X	X
D14) PROTECTION OF PUBLIC PARKS AND HISTORIC PLACES	N/A	X	X	X
D15) EXCESS SPOIL AND UNDERGROUND DEVELOPMENT WASTE	N/A	X	X	X
D16) HAZARDOUS COAL PROCESSING WASTE	N/A	X	X	X
D17) NON-COAL WASTE	N/A	X	X	X
D18) UNDERGROUND MINING: SUBSIDENCE CONTROL PLAN	N/A	X	X	X
D19) UNDERGROUND MINING: RECLAMATION	N/A	X	X	X

<b>X Documents received</b> <b>U Needs to be updated</b> <b>N/A Not Applicable</b>
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