



**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE STUDIES**

**2004 PROGRESS REPORTS**

**CHAPTER 16. LAND USE**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS ..... 16-i

ACRONYMS ..... 16-ii

16. LAND USE ..... 16-1

    16.1 Introduction ..... 16-1

    16.2 Study Objectives ..... 16-1

    16.3 Study Area ..... 16-1

    16.4 Scope of Work ..... 16-1

    16.5 Methods ..... 16-1

    16.6 Results and Discussion ..... 16-2

    16.7 Summary ..... 16-2

    16.8 References ..... 16-2

## ACRONYMS

ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ADOT/PF	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
agl	above ground level
AHRS	Alaska Heritage Resource Survey
ANCSA	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
APE	area of potential effect
ASTt	Arctic Small Tool tradition
BBNA	Bristol Bay Native Association
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BP	before present
<sup>14</sup> C	Carbon 14
CRM	cultural resources management
DEM	digital elevation model
EIS	environmental impact statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FR	Federal Register
GIS	geographic information system
GMU	Game Management Unit
GPS	global positioning system
GLM	general linear model
LIDAR	light detection and ranging
M.A.	Master of Arts
MCHTWG	Mulchatna Caribou Herd Technical Working Group
mi <sup>2</sup>	square mile(s)
MMS	Minerals Management Service
MODIS	moderate resolution imaging spectroradiometer
mph	miles per hour
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NDM	Northern Dynasty Mines Inc.
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NPS	National Park Service

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NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
QA	quality assurance
QAPP	quality assurance project plan
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SRB&A	Stephen R. Braund & Associates
SWE	snow water equivalent
USC	United States Code
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VHF	very high frequency

## 16. LAND USE

### 16.1 Introduction

This report presents the findings of the 2004 baseline study of land use. Because the study did not begin until mid-October 2004, the work effort scheduled for 2004 was minimal. Consequently, the reportable results are limited to initial research and data gathering.

### 16.2 Study Objectives

The objective of the land use element is to provide baseline information about existing land-use and tenure patterns, land-use and -management plans, and land-management regimes in the project vicinity and other nearby areas that may be affected by project development and operations. This element includes local governmental land-use and coastal-management plans and related regulations, federal and state agency land-management plans, and land-management plans and activities of major private landowners such as Native regional and village corporations. Because transportation systems and land use are closely linked, the study will also consider transportation plans as they relate to land use.

### 16.3 Study Area

The study area for the land use element comprises the proposed project facilities (mine site, transportation and utility corridor, port) and their immediate vicinity; and other parts of the Lake and Peninsula Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough (west side of Cook Inlet and, possibly, Homer), and Bristol Bay Borough; and the area west of the mine site to the Mulchatna and Nushagak Rivers where land-use patterns may be affected as a result of the proposed project. The study will cover publicly and privately owned lands. Alaska Native regional and village corporations are major landowners in the study area. The study will consider all actual and allowed land uses except subsistence land uses, which will be addressed in the separate subsistence baseline study.

### 16.4 Scope of Work

Research for this study was begun in mid-October 2004. The study is being conducted by Kevin Waring Associates according to the approach described in the *Draft Environmental Baseline Studies, Proposed 2004 Study Plan* (Northern Dynasty Mines Inc., 2004).

Work completed in the 2004 study mainly involved the collection and review of documents and file data regarding land use, ownership, and management.

### 16.5 Methods

The method for this study element mainly entails compilation and evaluation of relevant and current official land-use and -management plans, regulatory measures, studies and documents, and transportation

plans. As needed, documentary resources will be supplemented with interviews of key public officials and private parties with responsibility or authority for land-use plans and management in the study region. Existing land uses, and planned and permitted land uses, will be mapped for later assessment of project effects on land-use patterns. No field work is proposed.

## 16.6 Results and Discussion

Because the study did not begin until mid-October 2004, there are no results to discuss.

## 16.7 Summary

Not applicable at this time.

## 16.8 References

At this time, a preliminary bibliography of sources has been compiled, but it is premature to identify a list of references to be cited for the baseline study.