DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE STUDIES
2006 STUDY PLANS

CHAPTER 18.
SOCIOECONOMICS

JULY 2006
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18. SOCIOECONOMICS

Kevin Waring Associates, supported by the McDowell Group, will develop the description of the socioeconomic environment for the mine site, transportation corridor, and port. As appropriate, this effort will be coordinated with related aspects of the environmental baseline studies for subsistence, land use, and recreation. Table 18-1 summarizes work for the socioeconomic study in 2005 and 2006. Figure 18-1 depicts the socioeconomics study area.

The objectives, study area, and methods for the socioeconomic baseline study remain as described in the 2005 study plan—that is, to describe the baseline socioeconomic conditions in the study area as a basis for assessing the impacts of various alternatives for project development and operation on the socioeconomic environment.

The major tasks and activities remain generally as described in the 2005 study plan. The scope of the baseline description, however, will be revised to reflect the most current socioeconomic conditions and to incorporate newly available annual data series.

The 2006 study will update the baseline information and analysis to incorporate the following:

- 2005 population and population trends.
- 2005 workforce, employment, and unemployment figures.
- Additional and more recent earnings and income data.
- 2005 commercial fishing activity.
- 2005 public assistance payments.
- 2005 household subsistence surveys.
- Current commercial fishing/seafood processing, visitor, and government sectors.
- Capital improvement spending for fiscal year 2005/06.
- Recent changes in community infrastructure.
- Current local governmental organization, services, and finances.
- The most recent community energy and regional transportation services and costs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>2005 Data Collected or Tasks</th>
<th>2006 Tasks to be Completed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Socioeconomics</td>
<td>2005 Study Plan</td>
<td>2006 Study Plan Summary</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Compile and analyze information on population characteristics</td>
<td>Update data baseline to incorporate most current information and analysis into 2005 baseline data</td>
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<td>Document historic and current economic conditions, including employment and unemployment, and earned and unearned income</td>
<td>Complete draft socioeconomic baseline description</td>
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<td>Prepare profiles of major industries, including commercial fishing/processing, tourism, government</td>
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<td>Design and conduct local labor-force survey of manpower skills, employment interest, and mobility</td>
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<td>Collect information for profiles of community infrastructure</td>
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<td>Describe the structure, powers, and finances of local governance institutions</td>
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<td>Describe regional transportation facilities, services, and costs</td>
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<td>Describe provisions for supply and cost of community electric power and petroleum fuels</td>
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Study Area
Socioeconomic Baseline Description
Figure 18-1

Legend
- Core Communities
- Project Area
- Core Area
- Cook Inlet Region
- Bristol Bay Region
- 2005 Pit Outline
- Possible Road (10/2005)
- Existing Roads

Scale 1:2,750,000
Alaska State Plane Zone 5 (units feet)
1983 North American Datum

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Author: RDI-LS