

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF COASTAL AND OCEAN MANAGEMENT OFFICE OF HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER

PRE-REVIEW PUBLIC NOTICE

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources will be conducting joint agency reviews of the proposed use of the Taku River as a route to transport materials, fuel, supplies, and mineral concentrates between the Tulsequah Chief Mine in British Columbia and the Alaska Marine Lines Facility in Juneau, Alaska. Redfern Resources Ltd. (Redfern) is proposing to employ a transport system comprised of Air Cushion Barges (ACB) and a combination of conventional a river tug and an “Amphitrac” vessel that will either tow or push the ACB along the route of the Taku River. Because of an expected high level of local interest in this project and its State review, the Department is issuing this pre-review public notice to acquaint the public with the timelines of the three concurrent agency reviews.

The State of Alaska will require that Redfern acquire appropriate State permits for the proposed operation of this ore barging proposal. At this time two State Permits have been identified: a Land Use Permit from Division of Mining, Land and Water, and a Fish Habitat Permit from the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting. No Federal permits are required for the proposed barging activity.

The Division of Coastal and Ocean Management (DCOM) will be coordinating a concurrent Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) consistency review of the proposed Taku River project. The ACMP will provide a coordinated process for public and State agency review and comment on Redfern’s barging project. The Taku River lies within the Coastal Zone and within the City and Borough of Juneau. The objectives of ACMP consistency review are to evaluate proposed projects against a set of standards and policies designed “to coordinate planning and decision making in the coastal area among levels of government and citizens engaging in or affected by activities involving the coastal resources of the state”.

DCOM will begin a 50-day ACMP consistency review of the Redfern proposal for the use of the Taku River on **December 18, 2007**. This consistency review will include a 30-day consistency comment period. The deadline for comments to each of the three State agencies will be on **January 16, 2008**. At this point the State agencies will consider all comments within the framework of their statutory regulations.

The Department of Natural Resources will host an informational Public Meeting on the State’s review of Redfern Resources’ proposal in Juneau on **January 8, 2008** (eight days ahead of the comment deadline). At this meeting the DCOM will briefly describe the

ACMP process and how the public can provide meaningful written ACMP consistency comments on the bargaining proposal. The Division of Mining, Land and Water, and Office of Habitat Management and Permitting will also be present to give a description of those agency's decision-making processes and regulations, and how the public can comment on these agency processes.

At the start of the ACMP consistency review on December 18, 2007 a review information startup packet will be distributed to the participating State agencies and interested individuals and organizations. This packet will include a packet distribution list, a startup letter containing links to State internet sites that will provide access to an electronic copy of the Redfern Resources Ltd. "Land Use Permit Application and Operations Plan", draft State permits, the agencies combined formal public review, and other pertinent review documents.

Mr. Tom Crafford, the Department of Natural Resources' Statewide Mining Coordinator, will be the point of contact for the Department's review of the Redfern Resources bargaining proposal. Mr. Crafford can be reached by phone at 907-269-8629, or by email at tom.crafford@alaska.gov.

Many of the permitting documents have already been posted to the internet at <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/largemine/tulsequah/index.htm>. The remaining documents will be posted as soon as they are complete, prior to the December 18th start of the consistency review. The public is encouraged to become familiar with the description and documents available for the proposed project.