

## Public Notice

Alaska Coastal Management Program  
Dated January 18, 2008



# Taku River – Tulsequah Mine Barging Project

## REVISED REVIEW SCHEDULE

Your Opportunity to Comment

### Project Title/State ID#:

Taku River (Tulsequah Mine Barging Project) /  
AK 0711-04J

### Applicant/Agent:

Redfern Resources, Ltd. / Mr. Tim Davies

### Location:

(Please refer to the “Project Description” to follow.)

### Review Schedule (50 days):

- Day 1 ..... 12/18/2007
- **Comments due on or before .... 2/21/2008**
- Final determination issued by ..... 3/7/2008

### How you can participate:

This project is being reviewed for consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. Your comments on the proposed project’s consistency must be submitted in writing to the Division of Coastal and Ocean Management (DCOM). *Comments about inconsistency must identify the relevant enforceable policy and explain how the project is not consistent with that policy.*

**Deadline for written comments:  
5:00 PM on February 21, 2008**

### Contact:

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### Project Description:

DCOM will be conducting an ACMP consistency review of Redfern Resources’ (Redfern) 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 is proposing to employ a transport system comprised of Air Cushion Barges (ACB) and a combination of conventional shallow-draft river tugs and an “Amphitrac” vessel that will either tow or push the ACB along the route of the Taku River.

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 (DMLW), and a Fish Habitat Permit from the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting (OHMP). No Federal permits are required for the proposed barging activity.

The ACMP consistency review 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. Multiple Juneau-area user groups have a vested interest in the continued health and vitality of the Taku River drainage. 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”.

The specific areas subject to this consistency review are the main channels of the Taku River between the U.S./Canada border and the intertidal areas of upper Taku Inlet.

#### Additional Review Information

Based on the Coastal Project Questionnaire (CPQ) and Fish Habitat Permit and Land Use Permit applications submitted to ADNR by Redfern, the proposed activity is described as a river barging operation.

“The primary fleet includes two air cushion barges, one marine tug, one shallow draft tug, and two amphitracs. Secondary vessels that will accompany the fleet include a small power boat or jet boat that will operate during the open-water season on the river, and snow machines that will be employed during the winter season. These ancillary vessels will assist in navigation and to provide support in the event of emergencies. In addition to these vessels, an additional barge and shallow draft tug will be available to provide extra transport capacity at times when additional trips are required to make up for delays due to bad weather, maintenance, etc.”

Redfern has produced three project information documents, the *“Tulsequah Chief Mine Air Cushion Barge Transportation System”* – Volumes I and II, and also the *“Tulsequah Chief Mine – Air Cushion Barge Transportation System: Taku River Operations Plan – November, 2007”*. State agencies responsible for the management of the natural resources of the Taku River have conducted internal reviews of draft copies of these documents since March of 2007. During this process these agencies have requested clarification of many operational statements in the original Redfern documents to determine impacts to the resources associated with the Taku River and the methods by which the applicant proposes to avoid or minimize impacts.

#### **REVIEW SCHEDULE CHANGE**

**On January 18, 2008 DCOM finished consultation with participating State agencies and decided to further extend the ACMP consistency schedule 17 calendar days. This decision was made because the B.C. permitting process is**

**generating information that the State agencies believe the Alaska public and State agencies should also include in their review, therefore DCOM has again rescheduled the Public Meeting and extended the State's comment period.**

**Under the revised review schedule deadlines the relevant dates are as follows:**

- **Public Meeting - 2/4/08**
- **Request for Additional Information - 2/14/08**
- **Consistency Comments Due - 2/21/08**
- **Proposed ACMP Consistency Determination - 3/2/08**
- **Final ACMP Consistency Determination - 3/7/08**

#### Document Access –

The State will be maintaining electronic access links to documents associated with this particular consistency review at two separate web sites.

- The DMLW “Large Mine Team” site is available at:  
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/largemine/tulsequah/index.htm>.
- The Alaska Coastal Management Program home page site and project information links are available at:  
<http://www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us>

These sites will have electronic copies of completed State applications; draft copies of State permits for public review; copies of Redfern’s *“Tulsequah Chief Mine Air Cushion Barge Transportation System”* – Volumes I and II; and *“Tulsequah Chief Mine – Air Cushion barge Transportation System: Taku River Operations Plan”* – November, 2007.

These web sites will also have copies of the ACMP consistency review startup packet of information that consists of a “Project Data Sheet” that gives the review deadlines, a Distribution List of the persons who requested a copy of the ACMP review startup packet, this ACMP startup letter, and a copy of the ACMP Public Notice.

To aid in public participation and as information develops during the course of the ACMP consistency review - DCOM will be adding new or revised project-related documents to both of the State web sites. DCOM encourages interested persons to check the sites at regular intervals to access the latest available project review information.

**For Your Information:**

Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to participate in this review may contact the DCOM review staff at the above address.

Public notice posted in Juneau, Alaska at the downtown Post Office, the Juneau Coastal District office, at the Aurora Harbor and Auke Bay Harbormaster offices and on the ADNR public notice web site. A complete copy of the project packet is available for review and copying at the Juneau Coastal District office in the CBJ Community Development Dept on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Marineview Building and at the DCOM offices at 302 Gold Street - Suite 202 in Juneau, Alaska.