



Media Release

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

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ALASKA DNR IN THE NEWS

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Office of Project Management and Permitting

INFORMATION ON EVALUATION OF MINING PROJECTS IN ALASKA *November Public Workshops*

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner Tom Irwin announced a series of public workshops that will provide information on how the state and federal agencies evaluate mine projects in Alaska. The purpose of the workshops will be to educate Alaskans about the existing process, laws, and regulations that govern how state and federal agencies evaluate whether or not to permit a mining project. The workshops will also be a forum for the public to comment on the process and to make recommendations.

With the increasing level of public awareness about mining in Alaska, it is critical that Alaskans understand the rules and regulations that are in place today. The workshops will include presentations by many of the key agencies involved in mine permitting, including the Alaska departments of Environmental Conservation, Fish and Game, and Natural Resources. Key federal agencies will be participating also, including the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

"Alaskans need to understand the complexities of the mine permitting process. It is not simply a matter of DNR saying yes or no, but rather the coordinated involvement of many state and federal agencies to process dozens of separate permit applications," said Commissioner Irwin.

The agencies will also use the workshops as an opportunity to ask Alaskans how the process can be improved. "We have a strong process in place right now, but we are always looking for ways to improve," Irwin said.

The workshops will be held from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm as follows:

November 13th, Anchorage, Hilton Hotel, Katmai Room
November 14th, Fairbanks, Princess Lodge, Copper Room
November 15th, Juneau, Centennial Hall, Egan Room

The agencies are also planning workshops for other communities, including Homer, Dillingham, King Salmon, and Bethel. Dates will be announced as soon as they are confirmed. The agencies will also make every effort to conduct the workshops in any community that is interested. For more information, please contact:

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Visit the [State's Large Mine](#) web site for additional information.