

STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

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April 2, 2001

Steve Carwile
Compliance Officer
Denali National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 9
Denali Park, AK 99755

Dear Mr. Carwile:

The State of Alaska has reviewed the Environmental Assessment for construction of additional parking near Apartment 51 at Park Headquarters in the Denali National Park and Preserve. The proposed parking lot and parking lot extension are necessary to provide sufficient, safe parking for residents, employees, and their visitors as well as to provide adequate space for utility trailers, snowmachines, ATV's, boats and airplane equipment. This letter represents the consolidated comments of the State's resource agencies.

Denali National Park and Preserve has a federal air quality designation of Class 1, the highest level of protection, designed to protect air quality from "human" source impacts. The park is also subject to the upcoming Regional Haze requirements and the particulate matter health standard. These requirements should be considered prior to implementation, yet we found no reference to air quality in the document. Our specific comments follow.

- 1) Dust from construction may impact area residents and those using the nearby playground. During construction, dust should be controlled to minimize contact with residents and with children using the playground.
- 2) The parking lot should be maintained to minimize dust emerging from the gravel when vehicles are driving over it. The EA, therefore, should address specifically how dust will be controlled following the construction phase.
- 3) Increased parking capacity will lead to an increasing number of vehicles, trailers, etc. The EA should address the potential air quality impacts of the additional vehicles and anticipated traffic.

Mitigation efforts, especially during construction, will greatly help to reduce impacts from dust. The EA notes that paving could be considered in conjunction with future larger projects. We encourage this approach for both new and existing parking.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. If you have any questions, please call me at 907-269-7477.

Sincerely,

/ss/

Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator

cc: Pat Galvin, Director, Division of Governmental Coordination
Pat Pourchot, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
Frank Rue, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
Joseph Perkins, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Michele Brown, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation
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