

STATE OF ALASKA

FRANK H MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

550 W. 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 1660
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
PH: (907) 269-7529 / FAX: (907) 334-2509
susan_magee@dnr.state.ak.us

September 22, 2005

Paul Anderson
Superintendent
Denali National Park and Preserve
P. O. Box 9
Denali Park, Alaska 99755

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The State of Alaska reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing installation of a seismometer at Castle Rocks within Denali National Park by the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Geophysical Institute. This letter represents the consolidated views of the State's resource agencies.

The State of Alaska strongly supports this installation, which will significantly improve the ability to accurately locate earthquakes and increase understanding of seismic hazards in the Interior.

The 2002 Interior earthquakes served as an alert to increase monitoring efforts for this region, which is currently under-instrumented. The increased seismic activity south of Lake Minchumina, called the Kantishna Swarm, is further evidence of the active nature of shallow faults in Interior Alaska. Most of these faults are not visible at the surface, so scientists rely on seismic event solutions (epicenter, depth, focal mechanism, etc.) to accurately map the fault zones and characterize their behavior. Better monitoring in precisely this area will increase understanding of an enigmatic and long-lived knot of seismicity in the Denali/Kantishna region.

Although the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) does not directly use the seismic data from these stations, it relies on the processed event solutions from UAF's network when evaluating hazards from active faulting. Accurate locations of these events are crucial for identifying the fault responsible for an earthquake and assessing the hazards.

We appreciate that the National Park Service recognizes the value of the data generated by the installation of instrumentation that provides continuous, telemetrical monitoring in relation to the negligible effects on the resources and values of the unit.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Magee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Susan E. Magee
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Sally Gibert, ANILCA Program Coordinator