



MAY 13 2014



Subject: Public Outreach Regarding the Evaluation of Alaska's Coal Regulatory and Abandoned Mine Lands Program

Dear Alaskan,

Each year the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining Land and Water (DMLW) jointly evaluate DMLW's programs for regulating coal mining and the reclamation of abandoned mine lands in Alaska pursuant to the Alaska Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act at AS 27.21. The annual evaluation assesses how effectively DMLW 1) prevents off-site impacts from mining, 2) ensures timely and successful reclamation, and 3) provides meaningful customer service to the citizens of Alaska. We also determine how effectively the DMLW Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program is using funds provided under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) to accomplish the objectives of Title IV, Section 405 of SMCRA. Our evaluation process includes selection and review of specific coal mining and land reclamation topics of interest.

We are requesting your comments on the 2015 oversight process for both the coal regulatory and AML programs, comments on our draft Performance Agreements and suggestions for improving our future Annual Reports. This evaluation period runs from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Should you have questions or suggestions regarding the OSMRE/DMLW annual evaluation process for Alaska's Regulatory Program, contact Glenn Waugh, OSMRE, by telephone at (360) 753-9538 or by e-mail at gwaugh@osmre.gov, or contact Russ Kirkham, DMLW, by telephone at (907) 269-8650, by e-mail at russell.kirkham@alaska.gov, or by mail at the addresses below. For AML-related questions or suggestions please contact Justin Ireys, DMLW, at (907) 269-8603, by email at justin.ireys@alaska.gov, or at the mailing address below.

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At the conclusion of each evaluation cycle, OSMRE prepares a report assessing the DMLW effectiveness in implementing its Coal Regulatory and AML Programs. Copies of our draft 2015 Performance Agreements and our previous evaluation reports are available online at <http://odocs.osmre.gov>.