



Meeting Notes

Red Devil Mine Talking Circle

Feb. 9, 2012 • Alaska Forum on the Environment

This document summarizes comment themes expressed by representatives from communities, agencies and other organizations during an informal session at the 2012 Alaska Forum on the Environment.

ATTENDEES

Communities: Verdene Morgan, Native Village of Aniak
Gina McKindy, Native Village of Aniak
Father Michael Fredericks, Chuathbaluk Traditional Council
Annie Fredericks, Chuathbaluk Traditional Council
Edna Beebe, Native Village of Eek
Ole Lake, Hooper Bay
Julia Dorris, Village of Kalskag
Andrew Maud, Village of Kalskag
Loreen Steeves, Village of Kalskag
Billy Jean Stewart, Village of Kalskag
Moses White, Sr., Kasigluk Traditional Council
Cauline Nicholai, Kasigluk Traditional Council
Michael Martin, Kasigluk Traditional Council
Richard Long, Organized Village of Kwethluk
Patricia David, Organized Village of Kwethluk
Miska Waskey, Lime Village Traditional Council
Fred Bobby, Lime Village Traditional Council
Farron Bobby, Lime Village Traditional Council
Lisa Gusty, Lime Village Traditional Council
Dave Cannon, Native Village of Napaimute
George Alexie, Nondalton Tribal Council
Nancy Delkittie, Nondalton Tribal Council
Harry Karshekoff, Nondalton Tribal Council
John Oscar, Kuskokwim River Watershed Council
Lucille Kalistook, Kuskokwim River Watershed Council
Adrian Boelens, Kuskokwim River Watershed Council
Joey Billy, Kuskokwim River Watershed Council
Don Wedll, Association of Village Council Presidents
Margaret Nickerson, Nelson Island Consortium

Agencies: Jim Fincher, Bureau of Land Management
Mike McCrum, Bureau of Land Management

Matt Varner, Bureau of Land Management
Teresa McPherson, Bureau of Land Management
Brenda Takes Horse, Bureau of Land Management
Anne Marie Palmieri, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Susan Erben, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Kristin Ryan, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Art Gerlach, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Nim Ha, Alaska Division of Public Health
Joe Sarcone, U.S. Health and Human Services, Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Matt Wilkening, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mahri Lowinger, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ryan Maroney, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Others: Rachel Klein, The Kuskokwim Corporation
June McAtee, Calista Corporation
Jeff Foley, Calista Corporation
Jess Lanman, Cook Inlet Marine Mammal Council
Joan Hope, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts
April Brehm, Donlin Gold
Enric Fernandez, Donlin Gold
Mary Sattler, Donlin Gold
Vivian Melde, Ecology and Environment, Inc.
Katura Willingham, Weston Solutions

BLM invited participants to share their questions, comments and concerns about the Red Devil Mine environmental investigation.

Major themes expressed were:

- Concerns about basin-wide mercury contamination issues in the Kuskokwim region, and the sources of mercury. Need for broader studies to address these concerns.
- Concerns about status of cleanup at Kolmakof mine site, and other small abandoned mines in the region.
- Concerns about cancer rates in communities along the Kuskokwim, and what contributes to these rates.
- How to interpret fish consumption advisories issued by the State.
- Long-term effects of mercury exposure on human health.

- Methylmercury bioaccumulation in fish versus land and marine mammals. Interpreting liver versus muscle toxin levels and what these levels indicate.
- Concerns that current or future mining operations might become abandoned and create contamination issues. Need for better understanding among communities of current mining regulations, bonding and reclamation requirements.
- Need for policy makers to consider the human element when making decisions or developing policies that could affect the use of subsistence species rural communities.

BLM thanked participants for attending and asked that tribes and communities consider if they would like BLM to schedule a tribal consultation or community meeting in their area when the Red Devil Mine draft remedial investigation report is released in April.