

Timothy Clark

From: Charisse Arce
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 12:31 PM
To: Timothy Clark
Subject: FW: questions as we think about HCR15

FYI

From: Fogels, Edmund J (DNR) [mailto:ed.fogels@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 12:27 PM
To: Lesh, Melanie G (DNR); Erin Harrington; Charisse Arce
Cc: Mylius, Richard H (DNR); Lefebvre, Richard A (DNR); Brakes, Heather K (GOV); Kent, Lynn J T (DEC); Carroll, Samantha J (DNR); Irwin, Tom E (DNR)
Subject: RE: questions as we think about HCR15

Erin, Charisse,

I have answered your questions below (they are inserted in red text). I hope my answers are helpful. I will be participating in this afternoon's hearing by phone, and will be available to answer questions.

Thanks,

Ed

From: Lesh, Melanie G (DNR)
Sent: Fri 3/26/2010 4:48 PM
To: Harrington, Erin D (LAA); Charisse Arce
Cc: Fogels, Edmund J (DNR); Mylius, Richard H (DNR)
Subject: RE: questions as we think about HCR15

Erin,
Excellent questions, Ed Fogels can speak to these points, and hopefully can get you responses prior to Monday. Ed plans to be online (offnet) for the hearing on Monday.
I'll copy Division of Mining Land and Water on this as well as they're a big part of the Large Project process.
See you tomorrow night!

Melanie Lesh
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From: Erin Harrington [mailto:Erin_Harrington@legis.state.ak.us]
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2010 4:36 PM
To: Lesh, Melanie G (DNR)
Cc: Charisse Arce
Subject: questions as we think about HCR15

Hi Mel,

We're doing some prep work and thinking for next week's hearing on HCR15. A couple of questions have just popped out of that. Wondering if your people have any ideas on them.

1. Were the port, road, power and other infrastructure to be developed for the Pebble Project, the likelihood exists for other mineral developments in the area to be developed. Given that, does the department (or the state) have a method for assessing cumulative socioeconomic and environmental impact assessment to assist in the decision of whether it is in the state's best interest to allow the Pebble Project to proceed?

Yes. For a large project such as Pebble, the State is a cooperating agency in the Federal NEPA process, in which an Environmental Impact Statement is produced. The EIS analyzes the potential environmental and social impacts of the project, and includes a cumulative impact assessment of reasonably foreseeable developments that may follow the project. The State uses the EIS in their decision making process.

2. How would DNR use an analysis such as the one called for in this resolution, if it were done by a reputable independent organization such as the National Academy of Science?

The EIS will be a comprehensive analysis which will be written by reputable independent experts hired by the lead Federal agency. IF the NAS study provides additional information that the EIS experts have not already incorporated into the analysis, then that information could be considered in the analysis. It would be critical that any such study be timely and fit into the State/Federal mine permitting process, so that the process is not unreasonably delayed.

3. Do you do an independent data gap analysis?

Yes. The EIS process evaluates all baseline data, and if there are gaps, those gaps must be filled.

4. Does the permitting process require independent data collection and analysis from agencies to corroborate the data being gathered by the company?

No. While we don't typically collect additional data for corroboration, the data is carefully scrutinized by the independent EIS experts, and state and federal agency experts. If any of this data is deemed to be inadequate, then additional data must be collected. Typically this is done by the project proponent, however, the agencies or the EIS experts could also collect this data. Sometimes agency staff will visit data collection projects, such as fish sampling sites, to ensure the collection is being done appropriately. Also, some data is collected directly by the agencies—for example, subsistence surveys are often done by the ADFG Subsistence Division.

Thanks. I know it's late on Friday. Thoughts your people can provide on this would be appreciated, but we recognize that this is somewhat last minute. The hearing isn't until late on Monday.

E

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