



ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Issues of Concern for the Alaska Mining Industry for 2011

Actions needed by the Administration and/or the Legislature:

January 2011

CRITICAL ITEMS: PERMITTING INTEGRITY – LITIGATION REFORM – ENERGY – INFRASTRUCTURE

Integrity of Permitting System - Ensure the integrity of the current, very rigorous, science-based state permitting process and fund it at a level that will ensure its integrity.

- Provide sufficient staff and funding for permitting functions of the Departments of Natural Resources, Fish & Game and Environmental Conservation.
- Establish public confidence in the permitting system.

Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) – Ensure reforms made in 2003 are not compromised.

Litigation Reform – Support efforts to bring more accountability to the appeals and litigation processes for community and resource development projects.

Infrastructure - Advocate for and fund infrastructure that will provide access to remote areas of Alaska so natural resource projects can be developed.

- Settle on a route from the Parks Hwy to Nome and begin development of it.
- Establish an effective standard for pioneer roads.
- Fund roads between communities.

Energy - Advocate and adopt a state energy plan and fund interties, pipelines, hydroelectric, etc. to provide energy for resource development and communities.

- Ensure that Healy Plant #2 comes on line at the earliest possible date.
- Rationalize the management and control of the railbelt electrical intertie system.
- Fund and construct an intertie between the railbelt intertie and Bethel.
- Develop and implement a strategy to provide stable sources of energy to the railbelt.

PERMITTING PROCESS

Water Quality Standards - Continue to revise water quality standards to ensure standards are scientifically supportable and developed using Alaska-specific criteria. Also, ensure continued availability of mixing zones and adoption of anti-degradation regulations.

Non-Profit Foundation Money - Enact legislation to require public disclosure whenever funds from 501(c)(3) non-profit foundations are used to affect public policy; disclosure to include name of the source, amounts and purpose for which the moneys are given.

Financial Assurance - Ensure that financial assurance (bonding) requirements for environmental compliance are managed exclusively by the State. Aggressively oppose federal takeover.

Endangered Species Act/Essential Fish Habitat – Continue to aggressively oppose ESA listings in the courts to ensure decisions are based on sound science.

FISCAL ISSUES

Taxation - Maintain an equitable and stable tax structure at state and local government levels to ensure Alaska industry remains competitive.

State Fiscal Policy - Adopt a long range fiscal plan.

Annual Airborne Geophysical Mapping Program - Increase funding for the extremely effective airborne geophysical mapping program; initiate statewide baseline water quality mapping.

Mineral Education & Training - Continue to support mining engineering and geological engineering, geology, the Mining and Petroleum Training Service (MAPTS), and the Delta Mine