

STATE OF ALASKA/ FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER

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January 31, 2003

James F. Fulton, Chief
Denver Field Division
United States Department of the Interior
Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation & Enforcement
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-5733

Dear Mr. Fulton:

I have reviewed the Annual Evaluation Summary Report for the Regulatory Program Administered by the State of Alaska, for Evaluation Year 2002 (October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002).

This report accurately summarizes the status of Alaska's coal regulatory program, and its effectiveness in meeting the purposes of the Surface Mining and Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, for this evaluation year.

I would like to add that we were given the opportunity to review and comment on a draft of this report, and our input has been accurately reflected in this final version. As always, your staff in OSM's Olympia Field Office have been most helpful, and are a pleasure to work with.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ed Fogels
Regulatory Program Manager

Cc: Glenn Waugh, Olympia Field Office, OSM