

Appendix E.F

Response to Comments on Draft EIS Legislator Comments



STATE OF ALASKA

F1



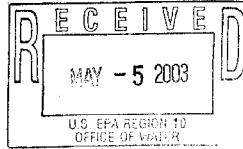
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119 North Cushman, Rm. 205
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-7423
Fax: (907) 451-9293

Session:
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-3466
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REPRESENTATIVE JIM HOLM
DISTRICT 9

April 30, 2003

Hanh Gold
NEPA Compliance Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, OW-130
Seattle, WA 98101



Dear Mr. Gold,

This letter is to express my support for the Pogo gold mine project in Interior Alaska and to urge resolution of the permit process in a timely manner.

F1-1

I endorse the "Agency Preferred Alternative" in the Draft EIS, with the provision that DNR adopt the "Alternative Management Option" for management of the access road.

F1-2

Anything that can be done to expedite the permitting process will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Representative Jim Holm
JH/bc

COMMENT RESPONSE:

- F1-1 Thank you for your comment.
F1-2 Thank you for your comment.

Toll Free: 1-866-465-3466
Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us
Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

F2



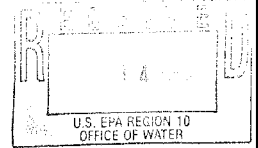
SESSION/ INTERIM OFFICE
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: 907-465-4527
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INTERIM DISTRICT OFFICE
P.O. Box 798
Tok, Alaska 99780
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Fax: 907-883-2670

Representative Carl M. Morgan, Jr.
District 6

April 11, 2003

Mr. Ed Fogels
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 900D
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577



Dear Mr. Fogels:

The following are my comments on management of the preferred access road route, to a new underground gold mine on state land, adjacent to Shaw Creek located south of Fairbanks and 38 miles northeast of Delta Junction.

After reviewing the summary of management options for the road, I recommend the "ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT OPTION" be adopted by the Department of Natural Resources. It is clear that the alternative management option will provide increased safety for the public while reducing state and corporate liability, reduce the short term impacts to subsistence, trapping and commercial recreation, and reduce short term impacts to wetlands from recreational vehicle use. Further, this option will increase revenue to the State for right-of-way fees, and from timber sale receipts.

F2-1

An expedited decision by DNR to allow the Pogo Mine Project to become a reality in 2003 will provide an economic boon to the region through new jobs, and provide new revenues to the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Carl M. Morgan, Jr.
Alaska State Representative

cc: Hanh Gold, NEPA Compliance Coordinator

COMMENT RESPONSE:

- F2-1 Thank you for your comment.





September 2003

Appendix E Response to Comments on DEIS
F. Legislator Comments

F-3

F3

GARY WILKEN

SENATOR
West Fairbanks

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Website: www.garywilken.com
E-Mail: Senator_Gary_Wilken@legis.state.ak.us

March 31, 2003

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Pogo Gold Mine DEIS staff,

I reviewed with interest the executive summary of the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Pogo Gold Mine Project*, Delta, Alaska. The project applicant, Teck-Pogo, Inc., proposes to develop an underground gold mine on State of Alaska land in the Goodpaster River Valley approximately 38 miles northeast of Delta Junction in Interior Alaska. The capital cost of the gold mine project is estimated at \$200 million to \$250 million and, with the known reserves, the mine's operating life is estimated at approximately 11 years.

At the present time, residents living in or near the mine's closest communities, Delta Junction and Tok, are not required to financially support their local schools as these communities do not have taxing authority. Over 80,000 Alaskans reside in villages or communities that do not contribute any financial help to their schools, but instead receive all their local education funding from the State of Alaska.

While some areas of the state do not have the financial wealth to help support their local school districts, the Delta Junction/Tok region has been identified as a financially stable area with the necessary wealth to help support K-12 public education. On February 19, 2003 the Local Boundary Commission (LBC), a constitutionally created commission that considers local government boundary changes, highlighted seven local areas in Alaska's unorganized borough that

Home of the
University of Alaska

F3-1

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Pogo Gold Mine DEIS staff
March 31, 2003
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meet the statutory standards for borough incorporation. The LBC determined that the Upper Tanana Basin Model Borough, encompassing Delta Junction and Tok, meet the economic capacity, population and stability, and regional commonality standards for borough incorporation.

The pivotal question concerning the formation of this new regional government is not "if" but "when." The Delta Junction/Tok area of the state will incorporate as a local borough and the residents of this area will join 87 percent of all Alaskans who financially support their local school district. As a profitable venture within the future borough, the Pogo Gold Mine will be expected to help pay its fair share to the local school district, as do other resource extraction projects in Alaska. I respectfully suggest that this prospective expense be calculated into the Pogo Gold Mine's business plan. As a good cooperate neighbor, Teck-Pogo, Inc. would desire nothing less than to help support the region's local schools.

F3-1
cont'd.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft environmental impact statement.

Sincerely,

Gary Wilken
Senator, Fairbanks

Cc: Mr. Karl Hanneman

COMMENT RESPONSE:
F3-1 Thank you for your comment.

Pogo Mine Project

Final Environmental Impact Statement

MAY-08-03 THU 03:33 PM

FAX NO. 2688904

GARY WILKEN

SENATOR
Fairbanks



F4

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April 30, 2003

Honorable Tom Irwin, Commissioner
AK Dept. of Natural Resources
400 Willoughby Ave, 5th Floor
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1724

Dear ^{Tom} Commissioner Irwin,

I'm writing in support of the "Alternative Management Option" as offered by DNR for management of the haul road used by the Pogo Mine Project.

I believe we are all in agreement that this is a very worthwhile project to expand Alaska's economy via resource extraction. Clearly a critical component to the mine's functionality is the haul road used to transport ore. Pogo-Tech is investing a substantial amount of resources into this project, including the fees necessary to secure the rights of way for the road and power line. Given the intended scope, size, and purpose of the haul road, opening it for public use could potentially seriously hinder the mine's ability to perform, expose the area to unwanted environmental risks, and especially increase the risk of endangerment should traffic on this road be any more than that authorized by the Mine itself.

F4-1

It's reasonable to conclude that given the purpose and condition of this industrial haul road, and in the best interests of public and environmental safety, we should allow the Pogo Mine to complete the job it has set out to do before we open this road to public use.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

Gary Wilken
State Senator, Fairbanks

MAY 02 2003

Department of
Natural Resources

Cc: Mr. Karl Hansman, Teck-Pogo, Inc.

COMMENT RESPONSE:
F4-1 Thank you for your comment.

