

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, September 3, 2009

- 1) Call to order – Wendy Lindscoog, President
- 2) Self Introductions
- 3) Headtable Introductions
- 4) Staff Report: Jason Brune, Executive Director
- 5) Program and Keynote Speaker:

Alaska's Energy Future – The Next 50 Years

Governor Sean Parnell

Next Meeting: September 17: Building and Preserving Alaska's Future: An Update on Corps Projects and Issues In The Last Frontier, Colonel Reinhard Koenig, District Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Governor Lauds Ninth Circuit Court Ruling

[Lease Sale Did Not Violate Environmental Laws](#) [Printer Friendly](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 09-032

August 28, 2009, Homer, Alaska – Governor Sean Parnell welcomed the news that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that the Beaufort Sea 2007 oil and gas lease sale did not violate environmental laws.

The decision means that Shell Alaska can continue with its plans to explore and develop its Beaufort Sea leases.

“This is good news for the State of Alaska,” Governor Parnell said. “Outer Continental Shelf development is critical to the state’s long-term economic future. The OCS offers the greatest opportunity for new oil discoveries in the Arctic, and barriers against exploration and development there continue to fall.”

The decision comes on the heels of two favorable federal court decisions.

The D.C. Circuit Court recently agreed with the state that oil companies should be allowed to continue with data-gathering activities for oil and gas development in the Chukchi Sea. Additionally, the U.S. District Court in Alaska granted the state’s motion to intervene in a case in which the Native village of Point Hope and environmental groups seek to rescind dozens of leases issued by the federal government under an off-shore oil and gas lease sale conducted for federal waters in the Chukchi Sea.

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Governor Parnell Testifies on Arctic Policy

[Calls for New Coast Guard Station in Alaska](#) [Printer Friendly](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 09-029

August 20, 2009, Anchorage, Alaska – Governor Sean Parnell today called for a new Coast Guard duty station or port on Alaska's western or northern coast.

"Diminished sea ice and increased military and commercial activity require a greater Coast Guard presence," Governor Parnell said. "They [the Coast Guard] need to move north and improve their capability. To provide homeland security, the Coast Guard must have new Arctic-class ice breakers.

Parnell testified at a field hearing of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security. The hearing, chaired by U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, focused on the strategic importance of the Arctic.

The governor encouraged the development of a National Arctic Doctrine that includes all stakeholders in the future of the Arctic.

"The Arctic's abundant resources, human and natural, and our strategic location for national security demand our attention," Governor Parnell testified. "The people of Alaska understand and eagerly accept our role in the examination and development of national Arctic policy.

"Any conversation about the Arctic must also include Alaska's natural resources: coal, gold, zinc, silver, copper, natural gas and oil. These resources make the Arctic vital to American energy security.

"Alaska is America's Arctic energy breadbasket. We have traditional and renewable sources of energy in staggering volumes here. Alaska can play an even greater role in reducing the amount of oil and gas we import from abroad. And we can be America's test-bed for renewable and alternative energy sources."

A copy of the governor's official remarks submitted to Senator Murkowski can be found at:
http://www.gov.state.ak.us/pdf/GovParnell-ArcticPolicyTestimony_Aug20-2009.pdf

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Governor Parnell Lauds Kensington Decision [Printer Friendly](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 09-026

August 14, 2009, Anchorage, Alaska – Governor Sean Parnell today welcomed the news that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has granted a modified permit for the Kensington Mine.

"The Corps made the right call," Governor Parnell said. "They recognized that this project has been approved through the right processes, and there's no reason for further delay."

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that Coeur Alaska had a valid 404 permit from the Corps to dispose of tailings from the mine in Lower Slate Lake. The Corps then called for public comment on extending the time for construction of the mine. Governor Parnell and Alaska's U.S. Senators argued against any further delay.

Last month, Governor Parnell urged the Corps to follow the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that validated the Corps' Section 404 fill permit for the Kensington Mine and to approve the permit so the project can proceed.

Kensington is a major gold project about 45 miles northwest of Juneau. It holds an estimated 1.5 million ounces of gold. The mine has been under construction since 2005. Coeur has invested more than \$300 million. During construction, the mine provided jobs for some 400 Alaskans. Once the mine is in full operation, it will employ approximately 200 workers.

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RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

RDC Action Alert: *Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf*

Comment Deadline is September 21, 2009

Overview:

The Obama administration intends to develop a new offshore energy plan for the nation over the next six months. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is seeking input on where and how his department should move forward in developing the traditional and renewable energy resources of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Four public hearings were recently held across the nation, including Anchorage in April where over 600 people from across the state were in attendance.

Specifically, the Interior Secretary is seeking comments on all aspects of the "Draft Proposed Program," including energy development and economic and environmental issues in OCS areas. The new offshore energy program will likely emphasize renewable energy, with some new oil and gas development in certain areas.

Non-development interests have launched a nationwide effort to convince Secretary Salazar that no OCS development should occur off Alaska's coast. How RDC members and their associates and friends respond to this challenge could well determine Alaska's economic course for decades to come. A recent study by Northern Economics and the University of Alaska Anchorage reveals that OCS development has the potential to sustain Alaska's economy for generations.

Requested action:

Although the comment period has been extended to September 21st, please submit comments early and encourage your associates and friends to also do so. RDC members should reflect on experiences and facts unique to their own personal situation. Obviously, a secure supply of reasonably priced energy affects the economics of domestic mining, transportation, aviation, construction, commercial fishing and other resource development activity. The multitude of jobs these industries provide Alaskans drives our economy. Brief personalized comments from our members will go a long way in showing the Secretary the importance we place on "doing it right" in Alaska.

In your comments, specifically support the Draft Proposed Plan covering the period 2010-2015 and encourage the Minerals Management Service to provide for a seamless transition to new oil and gas leasing programs in the future that will expand access to the nation's OCS energy resources.

How to comment:

Please reference "**2010-2015 Oil and Gas Leasing in the Outer Continental Shelf**," in your comments and include your name and return address. You may submit your comments using one of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>

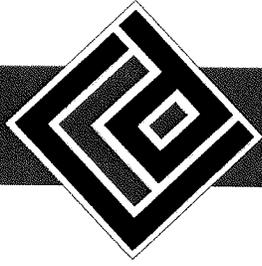
Under the tab "More Search Options," click "Advanced Docket Search," then select "Minerals Management Service" from the agency drop-down menu, then click the submit button. In the Docket ID column, select MMS-2008-OMM-0045 to submit public comments and to view related materials on the DPP and select MMS-2008-OMM-0046 to submit public comment and to view materials on the Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS.

Mail:

*Ms. Renee Orr Chief, Leasing Division
Minerals Management Service, MS 4010
381 Elden Street
Herndon, VA 20170-4817*

Points to consider:

- Access to Alaska's OCS resources may be a key element in the economic feasibility of the proposed natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to the Lower 48, one of President Obama's Top 5 Green Energy Priorities. Additional gas reserves beyond those already discovered are needed to make the project economic.
- Access to the OCS has the potential to sharply increase throughput in the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, which is currently operating at one-third capacity.
- For every barrel of oil America refuses to develop domestically, it will have little choice but to import an equal amount from overseas – where weaker environmental regulations often apply.
- A comprehensive energy plan for the nation must include Alaska, which accounts for over 30 percent of the nation's technically recoverable oil and gas resources.
- According to the federal government, more than 86 billion barrels of oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas lie undeveloped off U.S. shores in the OCS. That amounts to enough energy to replace 50 years worth of OPEC oil.
- A recent report issued by the Interior Department shows that these undeveloped reserves of the OCS represent about four times America's proven reserves of oil and natural gas.
- Based on USGS and MMS assessments, 50 percent of undiscovered oil resources and 36 percent of undiscovered natural gas resources lie offshore.
- The Alaska OCS is an important future source of U.S. energy supply with an estimated 27 billion barrels of oil and 132 trillion cubic feet of natural gas potentially in place. By comparison, total production from the North Slope since 1977 has been approximately 15.5 billion barrels.
- The Chukchi Sea is considered the nation's most prolific, unexplored offshore basin in North America.
- OCS development has an outstanding safety and environmental record spanning decades in Cook Inlet, the Gulf of Mexico, the North Sea and elsewhere.
- In Alaska, over 77 percent support OCS development. Nationwide, 61 percent of Americans support new offshore oil and gas development.
- Oil and gas production can occur in a responsible manner under a strong regulatory system, seasonal operating restrictions as needed, and mitigation measures to avoid conflicts with other resource and subsistence users.
- The OCS has the potential to sustain Alaska's economy for generations, sharply increase Alaska oil and gas production, create tens of thousands of new jobs and generate hundreds of billions of dollars in federal, state and local government revenues.
- According to a recent University of Alaska study, OCS production could provide an annual average of 35,000 jobs for 50 years and \$72 billion in new payroll.
- Sharing federal royalty payments from production in federal waters with coastal states and local communities is critical, as it significantly benefits local governments, promotes national economic interests and generates additional, new federal revenues by increasing state and local participation. Such sharing facilitates a closer partnership among federal, state and local agencies.
- Given demand for energy will rise as the economy recovers, America must continue to pursue new oil and gas development, even as the nation slowly transitions to the new energy sources of the future.
- Even under the most optimistic projections, petroleum products and natural gas are projected to account for almost 65 percent of domestic energy consumption in 2025 – requiring continued development of domestic oil and gas resources.
- Increased emphasis on renewable energy should not preclude or require less oil and gas development. America needs more of both to reduce its reliance on foreign oil.



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August 26, 2009

Ms. Stephanie Stewart
ADEC Pesticide Program
555 Cordova St
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Stewart:

The Resource Development Council of Alaska, Inc. (RDC) is writing to ask the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) to approve the Alaska Railroad's application for a permit to use herbicides for vegetation management on track located between Indian and Seward.

RDC is a statewide business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism, and fisheries industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

The Alaska Railroad is truly an asset in this state, employing over 700 people year-round. Additionally, the Railroad transports over 540,000 passengers and over 6 million tons of freight each year. Much of this freight includes coal, fuel, aggregate, and building materials for projects around the state, making the Railroad a vital service to RDC members.

With approximately 650 miles of mainline and branch track, the Railroad's ability to maintain safe and reliable conditions is imperative to keep employees and the general public protected during operation. Despite efforts to manage vegetation through non-chemical methods, dangerous growth in the 90-mile stretch between Indian and Seward has led the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to demand improvements to the track, or risk it being shut down. In fact, between 1997 and 2008, the FRA issued 947 defects and 74 violations against the Railroad. In June 2009 alone, the FRA issued an additional 171 defects and 47 violations for safety issues and concerns related to vegetation. These violations carry hefty fines and further threats of track closures and speed limits, ultimately affecting the Railroad's customers. While the FRA acknowledges the Railroad's efforts to control vegetation without chemicals, the risks of obstruction, derailments, and slip and fall hazards are too great to not require increased vegetation management for continued operation.

Given these recurring warnings and violations, it is imperative the Railroad be permitted to implement an effective vegetation management solution. We support the Alaska Railroad's proposal to apply a general-use, water safe herbicide combined with nonionic surfactant. This method has been evaluated by a University of Alaska research team and proven to have no adverse effects on humans, fish, or wildlife. These "weed killers" are regulated and approved by other state and federal governments, and their application would be conducted by licensed, experienced contractors under the Railroad's supervision. Railroad employees and the public would be fully informed of the herbicide use and locations in which it would be applied.

The safe movement of trains is the number one reason to implement an integrated vegetation management program that includes herbicide use. The Railroad has conducted a thorough analysis of all management options, and has presented ADEC with a responsible plan to address the problem. It is for this reason RDC encourages ADEC to approve the Railroad's application as soon as possible.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deantha Crockett".

Deantha Crockett
Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.

RDC Testimony to Ocean Policy Task Force
Friday, August 21, 2009
Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center, Anchorage

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment today. My name is Marleanna Soto and I am a projects coordinator at the Resource Development Council.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. Our membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources. It is on behalf of our diverse membership that I present testimony today.

Alaska possesses more coastline than all other states in our nation combined. Subsequently, the impact of any oceans policy will affect Alaska significantly, so I am grateful your first public hearing to develop oceans policy is here today.

RDC urges cautious development of a national ocean policy, and encourages the task force to take into consideration programs that have already been established and proven to protect and manage the oceans. National oceans policy should include measures to address the need for more research and data collection in the oceans. Any ocean policy should coordinate with existing management programs and stakeholders with a focus on avoiding redundancy and maintaining access. Increased bureaucracy would hamper already slow processes, delaying projects vital to Alaska's economy with no added benefits to the environment.

For example, Alaska already has the best managed sustainable fishery in the world. The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council uses science as the foundation for their decision making process. We ask you to consider what another bureaucratic layer would add. Indeed, fishing in Alaska provides over half of the nation's harvest of seafood landings, and is a significant employer in the state. Proactively, the Arctic fish management plan was developed closing the Arctic to fishing until further research is completed and data is collected. This action should not imply endorsement of a permanent closure of the area but rather, the need for a better understanding of the ecosystem prior to management decisions being made.

The ocean, specifically the nation's outer continental shelf, can also go a long way to helping the United States reduce its dependence on foreign sources of energy. Emphasis in any ocean policy must be placed on allowing access to these resources while protecting traditional uses such as subsistence hunting. We urge the administration to include Alaska on the forefront for development of offshore resources, including renewable and non-renewable resources. In addition to fishing and energy, RDC's tourism, mining, and transportation members also rely on future access to the ocean for their responsible, on-going operations.

Because of the vast natural resource development potential in Arctic waters off the coast of Alaska, RDC is also very supportive of increased Coast Guard presence. With this presence must come additional infrastructure.

In conclusion, RDC applauds the Administration for asking for input from stakeholders across the nation and we thank you for the opportunity to provide comment today.



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

August 3, 2009

Mr. Richard Jackson
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Box 6896
Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK 99506-6898

Reference Number: POA-1990-592-M6

Dear Mr. Jackson:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is writing to encourage the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to move forward without further delay to conclude the public comment period and complete minor modifications to the Kensington Project 404 Permit. Given the Supreme Court's recent decision validating the 404 Permit and the 9th Circuit Court's lifting its injunction stopping work on the Lower Slate Lake (LSL) tailings facility, RDC urges the Corps to promptly allow construction to resume immediately.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

RDC has been tracking the Kensington Project from its inception and filed an Amicus Brief before the Supreme Court in support of Coeur Alaska's efforts to develop the gold prospect. Over the years, RDC has submitted numerous comment letters and given testimony on the project. RDC staff has also visited the site. In its 34 years of existence, RDC has been engaged in multiple development projects, both large and small, spanning all of Alaska's resource development sectors, including oil, gas, mining, tourism and fishing. It is difficult to find another project that has gone through as much scrutiny and multiple environmental impact statements with millions of dollars spent on environmental studies and engineering plans.

The project's permit has been studied for over ten years, has undergone multiple public comment periods, has been approved by all state and federal agencies, defended by the Corps and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the Supreme Court, and is

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now poised to finally be completed, allowing Kensington to provide immediate benefits to Southeast Alaska. Coeur Alaska has endured a lengthy and exhaustive legal and regulatory process to reach a solution that will allow the project to co-exist safely with its surrounding environment.

RDC believes the facts and the law clearly support the validity of the current 404 Permit and its finding that the tailings disposal method is the environmentally-superior option. The Corps should not delay the project further by accepting the EPA's suggestion to re-evaluate the permit and study yet another alternative method to handle the tailings. EPA's request is unreasonable, wasteful of government and corporate resources and is unlikely to result in a better tailings disposal method. The Supreme Court validated the current tailings disposal plan as the environmentally-preferred option for the mine in a decisive decision. A new EPA review at this point would result in yet another substantial delay, another winter without jobs for many Alaskans and potentially jeopardize the project and its many economic benefits to Southeast Alaska.

Given the Supreme Court's decision which specifically recognized the exhaustive review of alternatives undertaken in the permitting process leading to the 404 Permit for the LSL tailings facility, RDC is disappointed the EPA is contemplating another tailings disposal option. This new option has the appearance of a bureaucratic maneuver to circumvent the Supreme Court's ruling and ultimately stifle Coeur Alaska's ability develop the mine.

The Corps' March 29, 2006 Revised Record of Decision (affirmed by the Supreme Court) and accompanying 404(b)(1) evaluation offer a detailed discussion on why the LSL disposal option is environmentally-preferred. In addition, the Final Environmental impact Statement provides further details of the evaluation that occurred during the extended process.

It is extremely important to recognize that after mine closure and reclamation, LSL will boast substantially better habitat for fish and aquatic life than currently exists. In addition, under the LSL option, only 0.4 acres of wetlands will be lost over the long term, compared to a loss of 102 acres of wetlands and a permanent eight-story high tailings pile under the Paste Tailings Facility (PTF) option now apparently being advanced by the EPA.

Unfortunately, the EPA appears to be developing "new" information to force the reopening of an administrative process that has been exhausted. The EPA claims three changes have occurred since the issuance of the permit that require the reopening of the permitting process for the mine. RDC believes all three of the issues raised are neither "new" information, nor significant. The issues raised by the EPA do not warrant re-evaluation of tailings disposal alternatives. To do so at this stage would undercut the finality and certainty of the Supreme Court's ruling by inviting months of additional analysis, likely resulting in substantial delays from a new wave of challenges and appeals.

The assertion that the settlement discussions over the PTF constitutes "new" information is legally without merit. The PTF was a potential option discussed and evaluated in the context of reaching a compromise while the LSL alternative was bogged down in litigation. In this context, it was not itself a substantial change in circumstances, nor was a PTF significant new information, due to its similarity to the fully-analyzed and already-rejected dry stack option. The State of Alaska, in its July 29, 2009 comments, explained that the PTF is merely a variant of the dry stack option. The State noted the Corps is not required to evaluate every conceivable variant of every project plan. "The Corps cannot reasonably determine that refinement or variations of an alternative, in response to an incorrect decision of an intermediate court that is later reversed

by the Supreme Court, is sufficient reason to revisit the original alternatives analysis,” the State said. “To do so at this state would open the door on this and *any* other project for *any* agency – or third party litigant – to assert or suggest, at *any* time and well after the fact, that there are other variants of alternatives that are significant and require supplemental consideration.”

Prior to Coeur Alaska’s withdrawal of the PTF from further consideration, EPA did not indicate that PTF was the preferable option, or that it could be permitted. During the environmental assessment process for PTF, EPA indicated in its technical comments that it considered PTF to be inferior to the dry stack option that had already been rejected by the Corps. Only after the Supreme Court decision upholding the Corps permit that rejected the dry stack option did EPA apparently choose to advocate PTF as “new” and “environmentally preferable.” Moreover, after considering the Corps findings, the EPA did not veto the Corps permit. The Court itself noted that by declining to exercise its veto, the EPA in effect deferred to the judgment of the Corps. Were EPA to exercise its veto now, such action would destroy any confidence and trust the regulated community has in the finality of the Corps’ 404 permitting. For a more detailed discussion on these issues, please see the attached letters from the State and Senators Murkowski and Begich.

Also attached is a compelling July 28, 2009 letter from the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, which clearly articulates concerns the Council has with the EPA on the Kensington Project. The letter also points out that tribal citizens of Southeast Alaska were the beneficiaries of a highly successful affirmative action program by Kensington to recruit, train and hire Alaska Natives, other minorities and other Alaskan residents. Until the litigation halted construction on the project, hundreds of tribal families enjoyed support from family members working on the project. Since construction was halted, the letter noted tribal citizens have been without work. The Council assured EPA it would not trade jobs for pollution. Because the mine is located in the ancestral homelands of the Tlingit and Haida, Elders have met with Coeur Alaska and agency officials for extensive discussions on mining plans. The Council is confident that all of its cultural, environmental and subsistence concerns have been adequately addressed. “If we thought this mine would harm our traditional way of life or harm our ancestral lands and resources, we would be its most vigorous opponents,” the letter stated. “But we are not, we agree with and support the permit previously issued which approved the use of the Lower Slate Lake Tailings Option, a decision recently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.”

It is imperative that the Corps’ 404 permit not be delayed by unnecessary re-evaluation. The Southeast Alaska economy is already highly stressed, and the multi-year delay caused by litigation to this project has only made matters worse for local communities. Further delays in the resumption of construction at Kensington will only aggravate the economic hardships now being experienced by local residents.

As you know, Alaska’s economy is highly dependent on the development of its natural resources. This is especially the case in Southeast Alaska, where the federal government controls most of the land base, and where opportunities for a diversified economy are fewer than in other areas of the state. Projects like Kensington would boost the Southeast Alaska economy and benefit local residents. The mine would be a major pillar of the region’s economy, employing 200 people over the long term, with an estimated \$15 million annual payroll. In addition, the mine is projected to account for an additional 499 indirect or induced jobs, boosting total payroll to nearly \$36 million. Total tax revenues to the state and local governments is estimated at \$10 million annually, with an additional \$1.4 million annually in property taxes. In Juneau, the mine would be the second largest private-sector employer.

In conclusion, Coeur has already invested over \$300 million in the project and has completed nearly all permitted construction, except for the LSL tailings facility. Given the recent court ruling, the lifting of the 9th Circuit injunction, and the completion of an exhaustive permitting process, to require additional unwarranted reviews now would set a terrible precedent and render future permitting decisions unreliable. Although the EPA estimates a new analysis would take eight months, at a minimum it would result in yet another lost construction season, hurting both Coeur Alaska and local residents awaiting the economic benefits of the project. Moreover, we believe the delay would likely last much longer, especially considering the fact that the permit would be vulnerable to appeals and more litigation, further straining the economic viability of the project.

RDC joins the Tlingit and Haida community, the City and Borough of Juneau, the State of Alaska and the Alaska congressional delegation in urging the Corps to promptly approve the Lower Slate Lake Tailings option, allowing construction to begin immediately. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

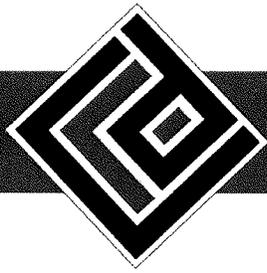
Sincerely,

Resource Development Council
for Alaska, Inc.



Carl Portman
Deputy Director

cc: Colonel Koenig



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A RESOLUTION urging the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to immediately lift its injunction upon motion by Coeur Alaska in the lawsuit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others in challenging the permits issued to Coeur Alaska for the Kensington project in Southeast Alaska.

WHEREAS, three environmental groups filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others in 2005 challenging the permits issued to Coeur Alaska for the Kensington Project; and

WHEREAS, after the District Court of Alaska affirmed the permits, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals halted construction on the project with an injunction in August, 2006 pending further legal process within the Ninth Circuit; and

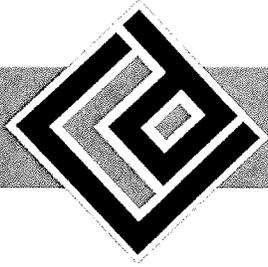
WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court reversed the Ninth Circuit Court in a 6-3 decision on June 22, 2009 ruling that Coeur Alaska's permits are valid and legal, and ruled the case be remanded to the Ninth Circuit for entering of judgment accordingly; and

WHEREAS, the Kensington Gold Mine is a "shovel ready" project which is of vital economic importance to Juneau and Southeast Alaska, and will provide over 300 jobs during construction and 200 long-term, high paying, year-round jobs when in operation, with an annual payroll of over \$16 million; and

WHEREAS, the people of Juneau and Southeast Alaska need the jobs and the economic stimulus created by the project activities that have been halted for nearly three years by the Ninth Circuit injunction, an injunction that no longer has merit given the Supreme Court's clear decision; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL STRONGLY URGES THE NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS TO IMMEDIATELY LIFT THE INJUNCTION UPON MOTION BY COEUR ALASKA.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 30 DAY OF June 2009



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

July 31, 2009

Senator Claire McCaskill
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building, SH-717
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCaskill:

On behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc., (RDC), I am writing to thank you for your willingness to consider and incorporate information on the Alaska Native 8(a) businesses and subsequently modify your position on proposed reforms to the 8(a) program. I am encouraged by your willingness to listen to the bi-partisan Alaska congressional delegation on this issue. RDC supports the mission and directives of Alaska Native 8(a) businesses and although there has been significant progress since Congress established the 8(a) program, the original reasons for its creation still exist in Alaska.

RDC is an Alaskan non-profit business association founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from all resource sectors (oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries) as well as support sectors, labor unions, and local governments. In addition, all 13 Alaska Regional Corporations created through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) are also members of RDC.

RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources. Along with operating in Alaska, many of our members also have operations in the Lower 48, including your home state of Missouri. The success these companies have in Alaska impacts their efforts around the rest of the United States, and vice versa. Since entry as a state, Missouri has been able to develop its resources and create a healthy, diverse economy for its citizens. Amongst that diverse economy are automobile assembly plants and a large agricultural base, both of which have shown significant reliance on government assistance of late. Alaska, entering as a state more than 100 years later, and not having a climate or geography for farming and being disadvantaged by distance to market for manufacturing, constantly strives to diversify its economy in other arenas. The 8(a) program helps Alaska do this.

Due to the potentially serious impact proposed changes to the 8(a) program could have, this issue is of great importance to our membership. The concern of the RDC membership included both those who participate in the 8(a) program and those who do not, evidence that the 8(a) program is working to help align Alaska's diverse interests on economic development. Our executive committee voted unanimously to write this letter in support of Alaska Native 8(a) businesses, clearly illustrating the impact these changes, if adopted, would potentially have on all Alaskan companies.

Founded 1975
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When enacting ANCSA, Congress saw a way to end the poverty that gripped many Alaska Native communities. As the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs reported while deliberating the Act, “[Alaska Natives] are among the most disadvantaged citizens of the United States in terms of income, employment, educational attainment, life expectancy, health, nutrition, housing, and every important indicator of social welfare.” Today, many rural Alaskans still have difficulty making ends meet. Alaska Natives comprise 82% of the population in rural parts of the state. Poverty and unemployment rates amongst rural Alaskans, particularly rural Alaska Natives, still far outpace those of their urban Alaska counterparts. Per-capita income of Alaska Natives is about half that of non-Natives. The precipitously high cost of living in rural Alaska exacerbates the economic hardships they face. Alaskans living in rural villages pay extraordinarily high prices for food, energy, transportation, and communication due to their communities’ isolation far from the road system and power grid, their villages’ low populations, not to mention Alaska’s extreme climate and permafrost. The lack of economic opportunities available to offset these costs has caused a social and cultural crisis of out migration from villages to urban Alaska.

Indeed, Congress enacted ANCSA in order to provide a means by which Alaska Natives could derive economic benefit from the resources around them, oftentimes in rural Alaska. Native corporations are the largest private landowners in Alaska and responsible resource development offers these corporations the opportunity to generate jobs and economic benefits for their Alaska Native shareholders. Resource development on ANCSA lands counters the aforementioned economic challenges by stimulating the job market and providing greater financial self-sufficiency for a growing number of Alaska Natives. These opportunities support the implicit promise Congress made to Alaska Natives when it offered them resource-rich lands in exchange for extinguishment of their aboriginal claims. Without ANCSA and the intentions therein, resource development, including vital national resources like the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, may not have been realized. Such projects could be stymied under the veil of incessant litigation, and one need only reference the ongoing delays that occur with First Nation disputes in Canada to see where we could be without ANCSA. The 44 million acres of fee-simple land that were allocated to Alaskan Native corporations through ANCSA were meant to help bring Alaska Natives to the path of economic self-sustainability. Alaska Native people sacrificed millions of acres of land (321 million in fact) in exchange for meaningful economic development opportunities. Much of this remaining acreage now exists as national parks and wildlife refuges, unavailable for economic opportunities. Through 7(i) and 7(j) revenue sharing, profits from responsible resource development on their lands are shared with other Native Corporations statewide.

But, despite Congress’ best intentions, resource development and land title alone have proven insufficient to materially overcome the economic and social challenges Alaska Natives face. The 8(a) program has been an effective tool the federal government has used to help meet the goals of ANCSA. This effective tool should be improved and used as a model to further the economic status of Native Americans across the country, not eliminated.

With success in the 8(a) program, Alaska Regional Native Corporations build capacity, develop a trained workforce in diverse sectors, and ultimately provide opportunities for shareholders to advance other causes, such as responsibly developing the natural resources on their land here in Alaska. However, without the economic diversification earned from 8(a) revenues, these companies would oftentimes be unable to bring such responsible Alaskan projects to fruition, ultimately risking jobs, educational opportunities, and further revenue outside of the 8(a) program, potentially increasing reliance on other government programs. Ultimately, for programs like 8(a) to succeed, sufficient time must be given to allow their positive impacts to be realized.

Again, I am encouraged by your willingness to listen. I urge you to thoroughly understand the impacts any proposed changes to the 8(a) program could have on Alaska Natives and the original intent of ANCSA. The 8(a) program is critical to the future economic viability of Alaska Native Corporations and in turn, their Alaska Native shareholders.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason W. Brune". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Jason W. Brune
Executive Director

Knik Arm Bridge
Testimony of Carl Portman
Deputy Director, Resource Development Council
Before Municipality of Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission
June 24, 2009

Good evening. My name is Carl Portman, Deputy Director of the Resource Development Council. RDC urges the Municipality of Anchorage to leave the proposed Knik Arm Bridge in the Long-Range Transportation Plan.

RDC is a statewide business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism, and fisheries industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. Our purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

RDC believes a bridge over Knik Arm will facilitate new economic and resource development in Southcentral Alaska, including the Western Cook Inlet area. The proposed bridge would benefit our major industries, which continue to serve as the foundation of Alaska's economy. In these difficult economic times, the project would be a significant stimulus to the economy. In addition, once connecting routes are built to Houston and other points in the Mat-Su Valley, the bridge would tie together a regional transportation system, lowering costs to commuters, tourists and freight by cutting miles traveled and time spent to reach destinations and communities to our north, including Willow, Denali National Park and Fairbanks.

The new bridge would also provide an alternate transportation link between Anchorage and northern destinations. The project would create 5,000 construction-related jobs and many more permanent direct and indirect jobs in the region over the long term.

The Knik Arm Bridge makes sense for a growing Southcentral Alaska. It would open up new land for residential and commercial use within minutes of downtown Anchorage, and support population growth in the region. With the crossing in place, new residents would benefit from reduced

commuting time and lower fuel consumption to future housing and commercial developments across the Arm. Anchorage would benefit from new commerce and residents would share in the jobs created by new business and industry the bridge would provide direct access to.

In addition, the bridge would relieve pressure for higher density housing in the Anchorage bowl and the Hillside. Without the bridge, a good portion of future growth would continue to be concentrated far away, near Palmer and Wasilla, increasing traffic volume on the already-congested Glenn Highway corridor. This is an important consideration since projections indicate our region could see substantial population growth, perhaps as many as 180,000 new residents, over the next 20 to 30 years.

Support for the bridge remains high with a majority of Anchorage and Mat-Su residents supporting the project, as well as Alaskans statewide. More importantly, even more residents in Anchorage and the Mat-Su support keeping the project in the AMATS LRTP.

In concluding, RDC encourages the Assembly to retain the Knik Arm Bridge in the LRTP. We do not support any further delays.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important project.

Thank you!

The Resource Development Council would like to acknowledge the many fine sponsors of our 34th Annual Meeting Luncheon, "**Global Energy Frontiers: The Arctic.**" Because of their generous support, RDC continues to play a key role in advancing responsible resource development in Alaska and shaping state and federal public policy. Thank you for helping grow Alaska and providing new opportunities for Alaskans.

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RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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**Managing Resources
for a Changing Arctic**

19-21 October 2009

Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage, Alaska

www.nprb.org/iafs2009/

PURPOSE

To initiate international discussions for conserving and managing future fisheries in the Arctic Ocean including managing migratory, transboundary and straddling fish stocks. The symposium will identify current management regimes in the Arctic region and how relevant scientific and fisheries data can be used to inform future management decisions. The symposium will identify gaps in existing management regimes and potential steps to address those gaps, as well as the need for improved scientific programs to support conservation and management of future Arctic fisheries.

PARTICIPANTS

More than 200 persons are expected to attend, representing governments, fisheries agencies, and stakeholders.

Current Agenda

www.nprb.org/iafs2009/agenda.html

Organizing Committee

Jim Ayers	Oceana
David Balton	US Department of State
David Benton	Marine Conservation Alliance
Lawson Brigham	Institute of the North
Capt. Michael Cerne	US Coast Guard
Douglas DeMaster	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Michele Longo Eder	US Arctic Research Commission
Ben Ellis	Institute of the North
David Fluharty	University of Washington
Dennis Lassuy	North Slope Science Initiative
Chris Oliver	North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Eric Olson	North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Clarence Pautzke	North Pacific Research Board
Denis Wiesenburg	UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
Douglas Woodby	Alaska Department of Fish and Game

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Nancy Hemsath, Institute of the North
nhemsath@institutenorth.org | 907 771 2443

Russian Contact: Kristina Baiborodova, Institute of the North
kbaiborodova@institutenorth.org | 907 771 2467



10/19/2009 MONDAY	
0730-0900	REGISTRATION
0900-0945	<p>Welcome, purpose and scope of conference (co-chairs)</p> <p>Opening remarks</p> <p>U.S. Ambassador David Balton (confirmed) US. Senator Lisa Murkowski (tentatively confirmed) US. Senator Mark Begich (tentatively confirmed) Alaska Governor Sean Parnell (invited)</p>
0945-1015	BREAK – Sponsored health break
1015-1230	<p>Overviews of climate impacts, resources, and uses</p> <p>Impacts of climate change on the Arctic Ocean and adjacent seas Harald Loeng, Institute of Marine Research, Norway (confirmed)</p> <p>Living resources: What lives there now or may live there? Libby Logerwell - Biological resources in the Arctic (confirmed) Alexander Glubokov - VNIRO, Russian Federation (invited) Dirk Zeller, University of British Columbia (confirmed)</p> <p>Who uses it? – Panel to include industry and subsistence users Moderator - Paul McGregor (invited) Lene Kielsen Holm, ICC Greenland (confirmed) Jimmy Stotts, ICC Chair (invited) Russian Federation representing commercial fishing Norway representing commercial fishing</p>
1230-1400	LUNCH at the Hotel Captain Cook
1400-1530	Concurrent sessions: policy and science
Track 1	<p>International laws, commissions and management policies</p> <p>Overviews of current situation and future trends in policy and management Moderator - Erik Molenaar, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands (confirmed) Kjartan Hoydal, Ex. Dir. Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (confirmed) David Benton, Marine Conservation Alliance, USA (confirmed) Canadian representative Russian Federation representative</p>
Track 2	<p>Scientific perspectives on climate change and Arctic fisheries</p> <p>Overview of science topics with representation from Arctic nations, to include Indigenous perspectives - Caleb Pungowiyi, Oceana (confirmed) Physical oceanography - Tom Weingartner, UAF (invited) Sea ice ecosystems - Dr. Tara Connelly, NRDC (confirmed) Siberian/Barents/Kara ecosystems - Vitaly M. Smagin, AARI (invited) Beaufort/Canadian Archipelago ecosystems</p>
1530-1600	BREAK
1600-1730	Concurrent sessions continue:
Track 1	<p>International laws, commissions, and management policies</p> <p>Panel of 4-5 people present case histories Bill Wilson, NOAA (confirmed) Leif Fontane, Organization of Fishermen and Hunters, Greenland (confirmed)</p>
Track 2	<p>Scientific perspectives on climate change and Arctic fisheries</p> <p>Science topics, continued Chukchi / Beaufort ecosystems Ocean acidification - Dr. Jeremy T. Mathis, University of Alaska Fairbanks (confirmed) Physical, physiological and ecological constraints - Jeff Short, Oceana (confirmed)</p> <p>Panel discussion</p>
1730-1745	CLOSING – preview of Day 2

10/20/2009 TUESDAY

0845-0900	CALL TO SESSION
0900-1130	Gap analysis of national/international laws and management structures Facilitated panel of speakers from previous day presenting their views about gaps in national and international management based on experience and previous day's presentations
1130-1300	LUNCH at the Hotel Captain Cook
1300-1500	Gap analysis of research, science and data availability Facilitated panel of speakers from previous day presenting a consensus summary of scientific perspectives on climate change and Arctic fisheries.
1500-1530	BREAK
1530-1730	Future Directions Moderator summarizes previous discussions and then leads panel representing individual nations to discuss following topics: Potential solutions to promote conservation and management of future Arctic fisheries Possible steps by Arctic neighboring states to address issues such as transboundary stocks Actions by international community to ensure healthy fish stocks in high seas portion of central Arctic Ocean where there are no current agreements Moderator: U.S. Ambassador David Balton Terje Løbach, Legal Advisor, Directorate of Fisheries, Norway (confirmed) Tomas Heidar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iceland (confirmed) Kjartan Hoydal, Exec. Director, Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (confirmed) Erik Molenaar, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands (confirmed) Duane Smith, President, ICC Canada (confirmed) Canadian representative Russian Federation representative
1730-1745	CLOSING - preview of Day 3
1900-2100	SPONSORED RECEPTION

10/21/2009 WEDNESDAY

0845-0900	CALL TO SESSION
0900-1100	Finding common ground Small group breakouts to discuss ways forward
1100-1130	BREAK
1130-1230	Report of small group discussions
1230-1400	LUNCH at the Hotel Captain Cook
1400-1500	Facilitated discussion of recommendations and next steps
1500-1530	Closing remarks
1530-1600	BREAK
1600-1700	Organizing Committee meets to plan publication and next steps, if any

Candidate Speed Dating

Alaska is at a crossroads. The challenge of addressing the many issues facing us rests on the shoulders of those serving in public office over the next decade. Those running for office during this campaign season, which has already begun, will need the input, enthusiasm and support of all Alaskans in order to develop an engaging, successful platform for leadership.



Join Elevate Alaska as young leaders from across the state provide you with an opportunity to do just that. We are initiating a series of candidate forums that expand how Alaska thinks about engaging its political candidates.

The first opportunity to engage, October 1, 2009, will be a meet and greet in the style of the very successful mayoral speed dating that was held earlier this year. Held at the Anchor Pub in Anchorage (with others planned the same evening in Fairbanks, Juneau and Petersburg) from 6-8pm, this will be a fantastic chance for young Alaskans to hold informal conversations with anyone running for public office in the coming year. Candidates must have filed an intent to run by October 1 to participate. Join nearly 100 young (ages 21-40) civic, business, cultural and social leaders who will have a short period of time to share their questions and interests before being visited by the next candidate.

At the mayoral event this past spring, young professionals were "dating" candidates in order to decide who to vote for. This time around, candidates will be dating as they seek to develop their platforms and build relationships in the process.

We will update this event page regularly with candidates who have confirmed. To find out more about Elevate Alaska, please visit our draft website at elevatealaska.org.

Join us for a unique opportunity, a fun night and the first in a series of events planned this fall for young leaders in Alaska to engage with those running for public office.

About Elevate Alaska

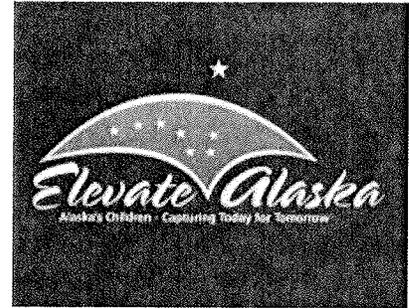
Elevate Alaska - We are Alaska's Children, Capturing Today for Tomorrow

Alaska has not lacked for vision in its history. That, and Alaskans who believed in a state that could be the best possible place on earth.

Our Constitutional Convention delegates, 50 years ago, adopted a resolution that articulated a vision: "We bequeath to you a state that will be glorious in her achievements, a homeland filled with opportunities for living, a land where you can worship and pray, a country where ambitions will be bright and real, an Alaska that will grow as you grow. We trust you; you are our future.

We ask you to take tomorrow and dream; we know that you will see visions we do not see. We are certain that in capturing today for you, you can plan and build... You are Alaska's children..."

Today, we are Alaska's Children. We are young Alaska leaders, generally between the ages of 25 and 40, who believe in Alaska as the best possible place on earth. In its beauty, diversity, its history and culture, today's Alaska is a land of opportunity. It is up to us to help realize that opportunity, as those before us have done and as we hope to inspire in those to come.



Our purposes for forming as a group reflect, more than anything else, our obligations to each other and to the state. In this, our goal is to remind others of that obligation. Perhaps the most powerful platform for doing so is the campaign season, as those seeking public office build their vision for what Alaska should look like.

Alaska's Children – whether we were born here, have been here since time immemorial, or just moved to this Great Land, we are passionate and committed to moving Alaska toward a future of opportunities. We are non-partisan as a group; if there is a letter or a party next to an individual's name, we believe that young leaders are less attached to it than to the idea, to the vision, that we can make this a better place for all of us.

We belong to Alaska. It is here that we have learned who we are as young leaders; it is here that we will grow as individuals and raise our families; it is here that we wish to serve our fellow citizens, our communities, and state.

There are many forms of service, and initially the group proposes to serve by:

- Inspiring civic investment and participation from every generation of Alaskans, while we strive to lead by example;
- Providing a healthy, solution-based evaluation of Alaska's existing political processes and conventional wisdoms;
- Creating space, motivation, and avenues for approaches that apply unorthodox means and/or challenge system norms;
- Demanding that candidates articulate solutions to the problems that loom largest in the state, while challenging them to find innovative ways to enhance our greatest resources (and holding them accountable); and,
- Building relationships across the far-flung corners of the state to sustain and enrich the diversity and strength of our perspectives – serving the state best by intentionally engaging in the issues facing all of us, and knowing the Alaskans directly involved in each.

We are Alaska's Children. Now is the time to take tomorrow and dream. Now, as we look forward to the next fifty years, is the time to engage the energy and dynamism that young leaders bring to the table. It is at the table that we will articulate our concern and our vision – capturing today for tomorrow. For more information please contact Nils Andreassen at 907.351.4982 or elevatealaska@gmail.com.

Save the Date



COMMONWEALTH
NORTH

Representing Alaska's Future

2009 Walter J. Hickel Award for Distinguished Public Policy Leadership



To be presented to Willie "Iggiagruk" Hensley
Evening of November 12th
Dena'ina Civic & Convention - Tikhatnu Room

On the evening of November 12, 2009 Commonwealth North will be honoring Willie Hensley with the Walter J. Hickel Award for Distinguished Public Policy Leadership.

The Award was established in 1999 to recognize the contributions and achievements of individuals who have played a significant role in advancing Alaska's public policy interests. The previous recipients are: Walter Hickel – 1999, Ted Stevens – 2000, Jay Hammond – 2001, Don Young – 2004, and John Katz – 2008.

Throughout his career Willie Hensley has worked tirelessly for the benefit of Alaska and all Alaskans. Mr. Hensley is a pioneer of the Alaska Native rights movement, an individual who has served Alaska and the Nation for decades with great distinction, and a steward of Alyeska in Washington for many years. Commonwealth North is pleased to present Willie "Iggiagruk" Hensley with the Walter J. Hickel Award for Distinguished Public Policy Leadership.

Please save November 12 for what will be a fun and enjoyable evening in recognition to one to Alaska's great leaders.

Contact Josh Wilson at Commonwealth North, (907)258-9522, for information on tickets and tables.

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Walter J. Hickel
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The George Schmidt Memorial Raffle & Silent Auction will be
held at the conclusion of the Alaska Miners Association
Banquet on Friday, November 6, 2009.

Need not be present to win!

*AMEREF's mission is to provide Alaska's students with the knowledge to
make informed decisions relating to mineral, energy, and forest resources.*



121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 250
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 276-0700

www.akrdc.org

Membership Application

Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.
121 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 250
Anchorage, AK 99503-2035

(907) 276-0700 resources@akrdc.org www.akrdc.org

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Title: _____

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Annual Membership Categories		
	<u>Corporate</u>	<u>Individual</u>
PLATINUM	\$3000 or more	\$500 or more
GOLD	\$1500	\$300
SILVER	\$750	\$150
BASIC	\$500	\$75

Please circle the category in which your organization should be classified:

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