

STATE OF ALASKA

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Central Peninsula Fish & Game
Advisory Committee

KPB
CLERK'S OFFICE

Sarah Palin, Governor

David Martin, Chair
PO Box 468
Clam Gulch, AK 99568

January 19, 2009

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assemble,

At our November 11, 2008 public advisory committee meeting the committee and public present unanimously voted in favor of sending the Borough Assemble, Borough Mayor and the Board of Fisheries the following Resolution to oppose the Chuitna coal strip mine in Upper Cook Inlet until there are absolute assurances that it is environmentally safe.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Steve Vanek, Secretary

A RESOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL PENINSULA FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE, NINILCHIK, ALASKA

IN OPPOSITION TO THE CHUITNA COAL STRIP MINE

WHEREAS, Upper Cook Inlet supports important fish and game resources, including salmon, bear, and moose, that provide essential subsistence, sport and commercial fishing and hunting opportunities;

WHEREAS, PacRim Coal, a Delaware corporation, is seeking state and federal permits to run the Chuitna coal strip mine 45 miles west of Anchorage, along the shores of Cook Inlet, near the communities of Tyonek and Beluga;

WHEREAS, the Chuitna coal project would include a large surface coal strip mine, a 12-mile long partially enclosed coal conveyance system, a 500,000 ton coal storage facility on the banks of Cook Inlet, and a two-mile long trestle and dock system extending into Cook Inlet to accommodate coal exports to Asian markets;

WHEREAS, the proposed Chuitna coal strip mine would, if fully developed, destroy roughly 30 square miles of fish and game habitat, and would discharge millions of gallons of mine waste and runoff each day into the salmon-rich Chuitna River and into Cook Inlet fisheries;

WHEREAS, the Chuitna coal strip represents a historic precedent for Alaska because it would be the first project ever permitted to mine directly through 11 miles of confirmed salmon spawning and rearing habitat;

WHEREAS, PacRim Coal is submitting permit applications now, yet state and federal agencies have yet to meaningfully engage local Fish & Game Advisory Committees on this substantial project;

WHEREAS, the Cook Inlet region boasts substantial coal reserves, and the Chuitna coal project will set an important precedent for coal strip mining and fish and game management for many years to come;

WHEREAS, development of the Chuitna coal strip mine will affect a broad area of Upper Cook Inlet with coal dust, increased plane and ship traffic, and associated spills risks.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CENTRAL PENINSULA FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE DOES HEREBY RESOLVE that it opposes the proposed Chuitna coal strip mine until PacRim Coal and relevant state and federal agencies present information showing the proposed mine will not adversely affect the long term health and sustainability of fish and game resources in the Upper Cook Inlet watershed.

ADOPTED THIS 25th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2008.



Secretary