

Agenda Item: N . 2
Committee: Lands
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PUBLIC COMMENT
ORDINANCE 2009-02

1. Nina Faust & Edgar Bailey Homer
2. Louise Kozisek & Olin Wright Beluga
3. Chris Schneck Homer
4. Cynthia Nelson Homer
5. Mike Allen Homer
6. Loren Flagg Kenai
7. Rob Lund Homer
8. Jim Levine Homer
9. Cheryl Rykaczewski Homer
10. Duane Howe, DVM Homer

Blankenship, Johni

From: Nina Faust [kachbay@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2009 7:47 PM
To: Gary Superman; Biggs, Sherry; Hal Smalley; Milli Martin; Ron Long; Pete Sprague; Bill Smith; Paul Fischer; Charlie Pierce; Gary Knopp
Subject: Ladd Landing--Ordinance 2009-02

P.O. Box 2994
Homer, AK 99603

February 5, 2009

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
144 N. Binkley St.
Soldotna, AK

Dear Assembly Members:

Time to say it again: the Ladd Landing lease for PacRim Coal to build coal storage and export facilities for the massive proposed Chuitna coal strip mine is a bad idea. We urge you to vote "NO" on Ordinance 2009-02 because of the potential of this project to pollute fisheries, destroy wildlife habitat on the 55-square mile site, degrade Cook Inlet water quality, and impair the health of Cook Inlet residents and wildlife (mercury in water, air pollution from coal dust, etc.).

Coal is old, dirty technology and strip mining is the worst, most destructive method of extraction. A strip mine that will be allowed to mine right through a salmon stream sets a terrible precedence for fisheries management in a state that has worked hard to protect its fisheries. Allowing roughly 7 million gallons of mine waste and polluting runoff to affect the Chuitna River is unconscionable.

Giving Pac-Rim the right to lease our public land and destroy public fish, water, and wildlife habitat is not in our best long-term interest. The legacy of dirty coal in the eastern U.S. should be a caution to all of us. Big coal has destroyed towns, buried watersheds, poisoned the waters and residents, and broken many promises to the people there. An industry with so much destructive potential is not what we should invite to this relatively unspoiled part of the world.

We urge the Kenai Peninsula Borough to lead the state by saying **no** to the lease on the Ladd Landing parcel, a step that will help the Cook Inlet region by moving us away from dirty coal. Vote no on Ordinance 2009-02.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust Edgar Bailey

Blankenship, Johni

From: Olin Wright [owright@alaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009 4:19 PM
To: Assembly/Clerk, Office; Carey, Dave; pa12gary@hotmail.com; psprague@acsalaska.net; akjfischer@hotmail.com; hvsmalley@yahoo.com; cpierce@gci.net; bsmith@xyz.net; gsuperman@gci.net; rlms@ptialaska.net; millimom@xyz.net
Subject: Ladd Landing Lease

We are writing to voice dissent to the Ladd Landing Lease. We own land north of Ladd Landing. Our family first located to this area in 1951, and purchased other land in 1956 and 1971. When we purchased our last two parcels of land at Beluga, the Kenai Borough claimed that the area was being developed as a subdivision, with home sites and recreational areas. The development of a coalmine has halted, for all intents and purposes, this type of development. I know many people who frequently visit the area for recreation, but who do not own property now. They have no intention of buying land at a strip mine and industrial port.

The coalmine will make an industrial cesspool out of the area, further reducing fish and game habitat and spreading pollutants throughout the area. We and large numbers of our neighbors have voiced our outrage about this coalmine before, but it seems the Kenai Borough is far more interested in catering to special interests than to listen to their residents, many of whom have paid taxes for decades with little returned in services.

The Kenai Borough can finally remedy some of this inequity by finding the courage to fight for the interests of its residents and taxpayers. The sad experience in the Lower 48 is that a coalmine lasts for a few decades. Its devastation of Kenai Borough land, fish, game and resources will last for centuries or millennia.

Just one example of many long-term environmental crises being created for the Kenai Borough is coal dusts. A responsible development program would have investigated this and discovered the many problems the residents of Seward face. Many in Seward consider the coal dust more than an environmental problem. It is a community health problem. If the Seward coal facility cannot keep coal dust under control, why does anyone expect a better outcome at Ladd Landing? Indeed, it should be worse. This area is known for 90 mile-per-hour winds.

The coal will be uncovered during storage and will be transported to ships that will get the full brunt of those winds, winds that wreak havoc along with sea ice and some of the highest tides in the world. These forces combined to sink a supply ship in Cook Inlet. What happens WHEN it happens to a ship full of coal? It will foul our beaches, estuaries, and streams for decades, if not centuries.

We all have seen what coal pollution is doing elsewhere, with contaminated aquifers, acid leaching out of old pits, and animals killed by toxic leftovers. Some groundwater in and around these strip mines has the pH of industrial acids. How can any responsible government agency and assembly allow the poisonous legacies of strip mining to happen once again, here in our backyard?

Please hear us, your residents and taxpayers, and realize there is a lot more value to the fish and game habitat, the open wild places of Alaska than the temporary increase in the tax base that Kenai Borough will receive. My husband and I are of one voice on this matter. Our TWO voices are joined by our neighbors. They are also of one opinion. No one in this area wants the strip mine.

We urge you to carry out your duties with the due care and responsibility entrusted to you by the taxpayers and voters. Decline the Ladd Landing lease! Send the special interests back from where they came with the message that the Borough and its officials know a bad deal when they see one. The Beluga Strip Mine IS

2/3/2009

bad, bad for the Borough and bad for all its residents. Its taxes will not even start to pay the true, real cost of future environmental and health problems or compensate us for the stymied development of the area's sustainable resources.

Sincerely
Louise Kozisek
Olin Wright

Blankenship, Johni

From: moldman200@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009 1:42 PM
Subject: Please do not lease Ladd Landing to PacRim Coal

Email moldman200@yahoo.com
First Name Chris
Last Name Schneck
City Homer
State AK
Subject Please do not lease Ladd Landing to PacRim Coal
Comments Dear Assembly Member,

I am writing now to express my strong support for healthy, wild Cook Inlet salmon, and to ask you to vote "no" on Ordinance 2009-02 regarding the Chuitna coal strip mine.

PacRim Coal will destroy the Chuitna River and pollute Cook Inlet by strip mining an area the size of Anchorage for coal. I urge you to choose local communities, healthy salmon and clean water over the interests of coal exports to China.

According to the developer's own permit applications, the project will dump an average of seven million gallons a day of mine waste and runoff into the Chuitna River, resulting in billions of gallons of pollutants entering Cook Inlet fisheries each year.

Importantly, this would be the first project ever permitted in Alaska to mine directly through an active salmon spawning area. This is a horrible precedent in Cook Inlet, where salmon play such a vital role.

Finally, Alaska halibut and cod are already suffering from rising mercury levels due to Asian coal-fired power plants. Chuitna coal to Asia will only add more mercury to our fish and the families who consume them.

Some Facts The lease option holds the Kenai Borough over a barrel; let the option expire and work with PacRim to re-negotiate the lease if needed.

Sender's IP address 209.193.46.23
Date submitted February 3rd, 2009. 05:41 pm

Blankenship, Johni

From: cnelson@acsalaska.net
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009 12:04 PM
Subject: Please do not lease Ladd Landing to PacRim Coal

Email cnelson@acsalaska.net
First Name Cynthia
Last Name Nelson
City Homer
State AK
Subject Please do not lease Ladd Landing to PacRim Coal
Comments Dear Assembly Member,

I am writing now to express my strong support for healthy, wild Cook Inlet salmon, and to ask you to vote "no" on Ordinance 2009-02 regarding the Chuitna coal strip mine.

PacRim Coal will destroy the Chuitna River and pollute Cook Inlet by strip mining an area the size of Anchorage for coal. I urge you to choose local communities, healthy salmon and clean water over the interests of coal exports to China.

According to the developer's own permit applications, the project will dump an average of seven million gallons a day of mine waste and runoff into the Chuitna River, resulting in billions of gallons of pollutants entering Cook Inlet fisheries each year.

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Sender's IP address 216.67.79.88
Date submitted February 3rd, 2009. 04:04 pm

Blankenship, Johni

From: mikeallen@alaska.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009 11:48 AM
Subject: Please keep Alaska's coal in the ground.

Email mikeallen@alaska.com

First Name Mike

Last Name Allen

City Homer

State AK

Subject Please keep Alaska's coal in the ground.

Comments Dear Assembly Member,

I am writing now to express my strong support for healthy, wild Cook Inlet salmon, and to ask you to vote "no" on Ordinance 2009-02 regarding the Chuitna coal strip mine.

PacRim Coal will destroy the Chuitna River and pollute Cook Inlet by strip mining an area the size of Anchorage for coal. I urge you to choose local communities, healthy salmon and clean water over the interests of coal. Especially in an age where we should be leading in the efforts to harness clean renewable sources of power, and exporting the know-how, instead of exporting coal, the largest contributor to greenhouse gases.

According to the developer's own permit applications, the project will dump an average of seven million gallons a day of mine waste and runoff into the Chuitna River, resulting in billions of gallons of pollutants entering Cook Inlet fisheries each year.

Importantly, this would be the first project ever permitted in Alaska to mine directly through an active salmon spawning area. This is a horrible precedent in Cook Inlet, where salmon play such a vital role.

Finally, Alaska halibut and cod are already suffering from rising mercury levels due to Asian coal-fired power plants. Chuitna coal to Asia will only add more mercury to our fish and the families who consume them.

Some Facts The lease option holds the Kenai Borough over a barrel; let the option expire and work with PacRim to re-negotiate the lease if needed.

Sender's IP address 209.193.39.216

Date submitted February 3rd, 2009. 03:48 pm

Blankenship, Johni

From: flaggs@alaska.net
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2009 7:41 AM
Subject: Chuitna Coal

Email flaggs@alaska.net
First Name Loren
Last Name Flagg
City Kenai
State AK
Subject Chuitna Coal
Comments The salmon resource should not be compromised. Please let the lease option expire.
Some Facts The lease option holds the Kenai Borough over a barrel; let the option expire and work with PacRim to re-negotiate the lease if needed.
Sender's IP address 204.193.117.66
Date submitted February 5th, 2009. 11:41 am

Blankenship, Johni

From: summersong@alaska.net
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 12:15 PM
Subject: ENTER YOUR CUSTOM SUBJECT HERE

Email summersong@alaska.net
First Name Rob
Last Name Lund
City Homer
State AK
Subject ENTER YOUR CUSTOM SUBJECT HERE
Comments

Some Facts The lease option holds the Kenai Borough over a barrel; let the option expire and work with PacRim to re-negotiate the lease if needed.

Sender's IP address 209.193.21.156

Date submitted February 4th, 2009. 04:15 pm

Blankenship, Johni

From: jlevine@jaybrant.com
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 10:59 PM
Subject: Coal is Backward Looking

Email jlevine@jaybrant.com
First Name Jim
Last Name Levine
City Homer
State AK
Subject Coal is Backward Looking

Comments Please vote no on Ordinance 2009-02 regarding the leasing of land for a coal mine. Too many fisher folks make their living off the salmon in this area, and it is not worth risking this renewable resource for one as dirty and unsustainable as coal. Alaska needs to start looking forward, getting it's energy from all the renewable systems that are available to us everyday and all around us, such as the wind, the tides, and the currents. We must get a handle on the amount of greenhouse gases that we produce or we our children will not have a future.

Some Facts The lease option holds the Kenai Borough over a barrel; let the option expire and work with PacRim to re-negotiate the lease if needed.

Sender's IP address 216.67.78.128

Date submitted February 7th, 2009. 02:59 am

Blankenship, Johni

From: Rykaczewski [r-ski@xyz.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 07, 2009 7:13 PM
To: pa12gary@hotmail.com; hvsmalley@yahoo.com; gsuperman@gci.net; psprague@acsalaska.net; cpierce@gci.net; rlms@ptialaska.net; akfischer@hotmail.com; bsmith@xyz.net; millimom@xyz.net; Blankenship, Johni
Subject: 2009-2 Chuitna Coal

Honorable Assembly Members,

As a 30 year resident of the Kenai Peninsula, I am very concerned about the risks to Cook Inlet water and fish resources posed by the Chuitna Coal Project.

If Pac Rim Coal is allowed to build the proposed Chuitna strip coal mine, millions of gallons per day of mine waste and runoff would enter the Cook Inlet watershed. Cook Inlet is the lifeblood and future of the Kenai Peninsula, and all residents look to Borough Assembly members to protect it.

Our energies will be put to better use in research and development of clean renewable resources. Help Alaska become a world-wide leader in emerging technologies and industries.

Please vote no on ordinance 2009-2. Please protect the fish and waters of Cook Inlet.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Rykaczewski

PO Box 3853 Homer, Alaska

Blankenship, Johni

From: Duane Howe [duhowe@alaska.net]
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 1:53 PM
To: Assembly/Clerk, Office
Subject: Chuitna coal

Assembly members:

I can imagine how tempting it could be to have a major extractive resource like a huge coal mine to provide income to the borough and cities of the Kenai, but the awful truth is that such a development would come at grave risks. Global warming is real. We humans are causing it to happen and we need to accept that fact and do something about it before it is too late to prevent catastrophic changes in our environment. We don't even need to consider the serious unavoidable downsides of the mining operation on Cook Inlet fisheries. All we need to do is consider the end result of burning the coal anywhere in the world. The CO2 emissions would add to GLOBAL warming, not just warming where the coal would be burned. We all breathe the same air.

And then there is the Pebble project. If it were to somehow get a mine permitted it would need a huge amount of power. That would put even more pressure on developing the Chuitna coal deposit and the burning of huge amounts of coal right here. If you start to consider all the end results of that proposal it quickly becomes unthinkable; big time money and jobs but intolerable consequences.

I hope you will accept the fact that we can't afford to burn any more coal. We need to shut down coal burners, not build more of them. "Clean coal" is still an oxymoron. If we sell coal to China, China will burn it and we and the rest of the world will suffer the consequences. Please do not even consider doing anything that will allow the mining of Chuitna or any other coal anywhere. It is that serious.

Thank you,

Duane Howe, DVM
41640 Gladys Ct
Homer, AK 99603
907-235-9477