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April 30, 2024

Mr. Tyler Marye
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
PO Box 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898
Submitted via email at Tyler.J.Marye@usace.army.mil

Re: Comments on Public Notice POA-2024-0016 Sulfur Creek

Dear Mr. Marye:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to provide comments on Public Notice POA-2024-0016 Sulfur Creek.

AMA is a professional membership trade organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,400 members that come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Our members include individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies, Alaska Native Corporations, and the contracting sector that supports Alaska's mining industry.

Teck Alaska, Incorporated, has submitted a permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District (USACE) to construct drill roads and pads to the north of the Red Dog Mine's existing Aqqaluk pit. AMA urges you to approve this permit, as it includes exploration roads and pads to enable a multi-year exploration drilling program, necessary to further the life of the Red Dog Mine.

Specifically, the roads proposed will improve safety for mine workers around the perimeter of the Aqqaluk Pit as they will be secondary egress from the Aqqaluk pit crest communications and instrumentation site and the proposed exploration sites. The proposed plan will also allow expanded water diversion structures to move water from Sulfur Creek further from the north and west side of Aqqaluk Pit, reducing the generation of mine drainage water and improving stability of the pit.

Exploration activity associated with this permit application will provide data and information required to determine and identify the economics and feasibility of developing future resources adjacent to the Aqqaluk Pit. This is a critical step to further the contributions from the Red Dog Mine to Alaska. Red Dog is an economic cornerstone for the Northwest Arctic Borough, NANA, and other Alaska Native Corporations. The mine is the largest private employer in the Northwest Arctic, providing high paying jobs to individuals who often provide and support their extended families. Continued operation utilizing a new mineral deposit is vital for the economic and social wellbeing of the region.



Beyond the communities and region, the Red Dog Mine is the largest producer of zinc in the United States, which is a mineral needed in manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, health supplements, among many other uses. Without this production, the United States would lack a guaranteed source of zinc if sources from outside the country were not available.

Teck has been a community partner and responsible operator for more than 30 years of exploration in the region, conducting environmentally responsible operations, and contributing to our nation as the largest critical minerals producer. AMA urges you to approve the permit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DSK", is positioned above the typed name.

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director