



United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
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H30 (WRST-AD)

January 13, 2012

Dear Interested Party:

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing the replacement of the domestic water system and the addition of a fire suppression system at the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark in Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The water system would include the development of a water source and intake line, the installation of water storage tanks sufficient for the domestic water and fire suppression demands, construction of a small (10'x10") treatment facility compliant with the DEC drinking water standards, and the construction of a distribution system to meet the domestic and fire suppression needs. The fire distribution system will reestablish fire hydrants along the rail corridor to serve all owners along the corridor in the event of a fire. Six buildings would receive fire suppression systems and three buildings would receive domestic water services.

The system is needed because the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) informed the park in November 2004 that due to past violations of water quality, the NPS is a candidate for the state's Significant Non-Compliant List (SNC). The system currently operates on a waiver from DEC regulation. The system needs an upgrade to be compliant with current surface water treatment regulations; state and federal.

NPS owns 20 historic buildings as part of the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark. With numerous historic framed structures at the millsite, the installation of a fire suppression system is necessary for visitor safety and resource protection.

The proposal is consistent with the 2001 Kennecott Interim Operations Plan and the 2006 Kennecott Mines Support Facilities Plan and Environmental Assessment.

Details of the preliminary water system design can be reviewed in the document labeled "water system preliminary design" posted on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Please note that the concepts presented in this document are very preliminary and the schematics are presented to show general and not precise location of water lines, tanks, etc. At this time, NPS is favoring Alternative 1 described in that document as the preferred design concept. This is subject to change based on the Value Analysis that will occur starting February 7. During the Value Analysis, a panel of 8 – 10 individuals will spend 2 – 3 days reviewing and evaluating the proposed concepts to determine a "best value" among these designs. The panel will consist of one or two representatives from the community, engineers, state regulators, NPS staff and representatives of the cultural resource community.

At this time, the NPS is asking for comments on the proposed water system. Comments can be made directly on the PEPC website or you can e-mail them to Bruce_Rogers@nps.gov or send a hard copy to: Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, ATTN: Bruce Rogers, P.O. Box 439, Copper Center, Alaska, 99573. Public comments are requested by February 13, 2012. If you made comments about the water system concept that was presented as part of the Kennecott Operations Plan proposed action last summer, we have your comments on file and they will be considered as we develop alternatives.

Thanks for your interest in Kennecott management. If you have questions, please contact Bruce Rogers, planner, at 907-822-7276 or e-mail at Bruce_Rogers@nps.gov.

Sincerely,



Rick Obernesser
Superintendent

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