



COOK INLETKEEPER®

PROTECTING ALASKA'S COOK INLET WATERSHED AND THE LIFE IT SUSTAINS

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2007-03

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED CHUITNA COAL STRIP ON THE WESTERN SHORES OF COOK INLET.

WHEREAS, Alaska possesses roughly half the nation's coal reserves and the Beluga coalfields on the west side of Cook Inlet contain some of the highest volumes of sub-bituminous coal at tidewater in the world;

WHEREAS, rising energy prices have made coal financially attractive for burgeoning Asian markets and Alaska utilities alike;

WHEREAS, Outside investors with PacRim are moving rapidly to develop the massive Chuitna coal strip mine near the communities of Beluga and Tyonek approximately 45 miles west of Anchorage along the shores of Cook Inlet;

WHEREAS, the Chuitna coal strip mine, if fully developed, would destroy over 30 square miles of prime moose and bear habitat, and will irreversibly alter the hydrologic systems that support Chuitna River and Cook Inlet salmon;

WHEREAS, the proposed Chuitna coal strip would dump billions of gallons of contaminated mine run-off into the Chuitna River and Cook Inlet, and coal storage and export facilities will directly impact set net fishermen, subsistence harvest practices and beluga whales;

WHEREAS, coal produces more greenhouse gases than any other traditional fuel source, and threatens to contaminate Alaska fish and the people who consume them with mercury; and

WHEREAS, the Chuitna River and its surrounding watershed supports important Native Alaska subsistence practices, and provides unique recreational and commercial fishing opportunities that promote Alaska lifestyles;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF COOK INLETKEEPER DOES HEREBY RESOLVE it opposes development of the Chuitna Coal Project until project proponents can show 1) the greenhouse gases produced by Chuitna coal will be effectively sequestered; 2) the emissions from Chuitna coal will not introduce mercury into Alaska fish; and 3) post-mining mitigation measures ensure that all pre-mining hydrologic functions and values are retained within the Chuitna River watershed.

HAVING BEEN DULY CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PURSUANT TO COOK INLETKEEPER'S BY-LAWS, THIS RESOLUTION IS HEREBY ADOPTED THIS 1ST DAY OF JUNE 2007.

Bob Shavelson, Executive Director

June 1, 2007
Date