



# Pogo Gold Mine Project Update

U.S Environmental Protection Agency

Region 10: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

March 2003

## ***EPA Would Like Your Comments!***

### ***Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Pogo Gold Mine Project Now Available for Your Review***

#### **Come To EPA's Public Hearings: April 29, 2003 in Delta Junction and April 30, 2003 in Fairbanks**

On April 29, 2003 EPA and the co-operating agencies will hold a public hearing at the Delta Junction Community Center, 2288 Deborah Street from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and on April 30, 2003 at the Chena River Convention Center at 109 Clay Street in Fairbanks from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

#### **Public Hearings Schedule**

Open House: 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
EIS team members will be available for questions and informal discussions.

Project Presentation and  
Public Testimony: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

At these public hearings, EPA will answer questions about EPA's process and approach to the draft EIS analysis, describe the agencies' preferred alternative, and listen to and record public comments on the draft EIS. An official court reporter will record comments.

Attendees can also submit written comments on sheets that will be available at both hearings. You may also send written comments to EPA.

Please contact Hanh Gold at (206) 553-0171 or 1(800) 424-4372 if you have questions about the public hearings.

#### **Public Hearing Comment Options**

- ~ Fill out comment sheets
- ~ Testify formally from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- ~ Speak into the court reporter's tape machine in a quiet corner of the room.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Teck-Pogo, Inc.'s proposed Pogo Gold Mine Project, near Delta Junction, will soon be available for a 60-day public review.

EPA is the lead agency for the EIS process because the project needs a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Our project team, which includes the State of Alaska and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as cooperating agencies, has studied how the proposed project could affect people and the environment. The team has also developed and looked closely at reasonable project alternatives based on input from the public, tribal governments, and other state and federal agencies.

The comment period for the draft EIS will begin on March 14, 2003 and end on May 13, 2003. EPA will respond to all comments on the draft EIS in the final EIS. I encourage you to submit your comments and views during the public comment period so your concerns can be addressed. The EIS process is designed to provide interested citizens, tribes, and government officials an opportunity to comment on the alternatives and our analysis of potential project impacts.

Please send your comments on or before May 13, 2003, to:

Hanh Gold, NEPA Compliance Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Sixth Avenue, OW-130, Seattle, WA 98101  
Fax: (206) 553-0165  
Email: [gold.hanh@epa.gov](mailto:gold.hanh@epa.gov)

The consulting firm Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. assisted in preparing the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS describes how the proposed project could affect people, animals, and the ecosystem. It also identifies the agencies' overall preferred project alternative, and includes several key draft permits as appendices, including the State of Alaska's draft permit for the access road. The agencies want to give all DEIS reviewers a complete picture of the possible impacts of the proposed project and alternatives. We also want to show how key parts of the project, including access and water quality, would be regulated. Therefore, we invite DEIS reviewers to comment on the proposed NPDES permits as well as other draft permits included in the DEIS during the 60-day comment period.

Over the past two years, EPA and the cooperating agencies have been working with Teck-Pogo, Inc. on its operating plans and permit applications. As a result of discussions with not only federal and state agencies and Tribal Governments, but also input from a wide range of other stakeholders, Teck-Pogo, Inc. has proposed some changes to its operations. Some specific changes are:

- Mine site facilities have been moved to consolidate and generally lessen the overall project footprint and minimize water runoff.
- A new, innovative waste water treatment system has been proposed.

EPA welcomes your comments and looks forward to your continued participation in the EIS process.

Sincerely,

Randall F. Smith, Director  
EPA Office of Water

## For More Information

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Executive Summary for the Pogo Gold Mine Project is available on the web at [www.pogomineeis.com](http://www.pogomineeis.com) and at all of the following locations:

### Libraries

Noel Wien Library in Fairbanks (1215 Cowles Street)  
Delta Junction Public Library (2288 Deborah Street)  
Z. J. Loussac Library in Anchorage (3600 Denali Street)

### Agency Offices

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
222 W. 7th Avenue, Room 537  
Anchorage, AK 99513-7588

Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Public Information Center  
550 W. 7th Ave, Suite 1260, Anchorage, AK 99501-3557  
(907) 269-8400

Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Public Information Center  
3700 Airport Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699  
(907) 451-2705

### Tribal Offices

Circle Native Community  
Dot Lake Village Council  
Healy Lake Tribal Council  
Manley Village Tribal Council  
Mentasta Traditional Council  
Native Village of Eagle  
Native Village of Minto  
Native Village of Tanana  
Nenana Native Village  
Northway Traditional Council  
Tanacross Village Council  
Tetlin Village Council  
Tok Traditional Council

You can find the Pogo Public Involvement Plan, the last three project updates, other information about the Pogo project, as well as the Draft EIS and Executive Summary on the EPA webpage: [www.epa.gov/r10earth/pogo.htm](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/pogo.htm).

*For people with disabilities: Please call Debra Sherbina at 206/553-0247 or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372 (x0247) if you have requests for reasonable accommodations. TTY users, call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and give the operator Debra Sherbina's phone number.*



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

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## **POGO GOLD MINE PROJECT UPDATE**

**PLEASE COMMENT ON THE DRAFT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
AND COME TO THE PUBLIC HEARING  
APRIL 29, 2003 or APRIL 30, 2003**