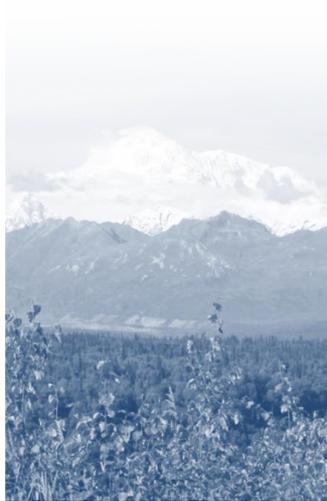




# State of ALASKA

Department of Natural Resources



Kyle Moselle, Large Mine Project Manager

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907-465-6849 [kyle.moselle@alaska.gov](mailto:kyle.moselle@alaska.gov)  
[www.dnr.alaska.gov/commis/opmp](http://www.dnr.alaska.gov/commis/opmp)

# Presentation Outline



Ross Adams Mine



- Alaska's coordinated mine permitting process.
- Alaska's involvement in British Columbia's Environmental Assessment process.
- Take way points

# Alaska's Coordinated Mine Permitting Process



Niblack core shack



Permitting a mine in Alaska follows a rational process

**BUT**

- It is rigorous, time consuming, expensive, and often convoluted
- It involves several state and federal agencies with overlapping authorities
- It is an iterative process – usually resulting in modifications to project plans
- It has risks – there is no guarantee of receiving permits

# Alaska's Coordinated Mine Permitting Process



Greens Creek mill facility



## The Large Mine Permit Team mitigates some of the challenges

- Multi-agency team approach to mine permitting
- Voluntary – MOU defines arrangement & proponent funds LMPT involvement
- DNR Project Coordinator assigned to the project & coordinates LMPT
- LMPT built from state agency staffs with extensive permitting experience
- First used in 1992 for the Fort Knox Project

# Alaska's Coordinated Mine Permitting Process



Greens Creek floatation facility



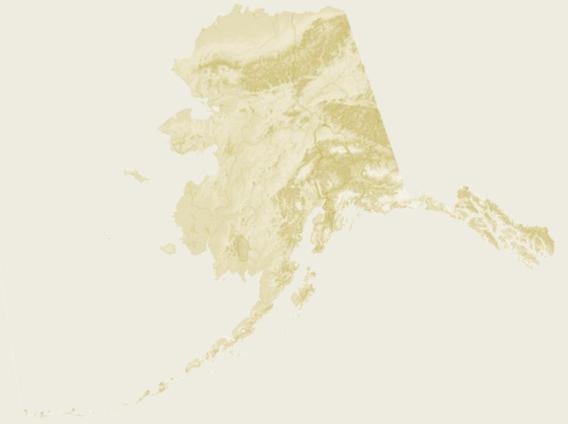
## The Large Mine Permit Team participants

- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- Department of Fish and Game (DFG)
- Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT)
- Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS)
- Department of Law
- Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED)

# Alaska's Coordinated Mine Permitting Process



Kensington water discharge diffuser ("The Octopus")



## Major state authorizations

- Reclamation and Closure Plan (DNR)
- Waste Management Permits (DEC)
- Alaska Pollution Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Permit (DEC)
- Monitoring Plans (DNR/DEC/DFG)
- Water Rights (DNR)
- Financial Assurance (DNR/DEC)
- Dam Safety Approvals (DNR)
- Fish Habitat Permits (DFG)
- Air Quality Permits (DEC)
- Access/Rights of Way (DNR/DOT)

# Alaska's Coordinated Mine Permitting Process



Kensington Water Treatment Facility



## Large Mine Permit Team functions

- Coordinated review of project applications (can also link to federal review process)
- Review, analyze, and evaluate technical documents
- Conduct inspections and evaluate permit conditions at operating mines
- The process benefits from multi-disciplinary expertise of team members (geologists, engineers, hydrologists, biologists, environmental scientists)
- The Team is involved from pre-permitting through post-closure monitoring

# Alaska's Coordinated Mine Permitting Process



LMPT touring Kensington Water Treatment Facility



## Principle permitting goals

- Protect air, water, fish, and wildlife habitat quality through Best Management Practices (BMPs) and appropriately designed tailings, waste rock, water treatment, and power facilities
- Ensure long term physical and chemical stability of the site after closure through BMPs and approved mine reclamation
- Secure financial assurance so that these objectives can be met under duress

# Alaska's Coordinated Mine Permitting Process



Niblack Exploration Project portal

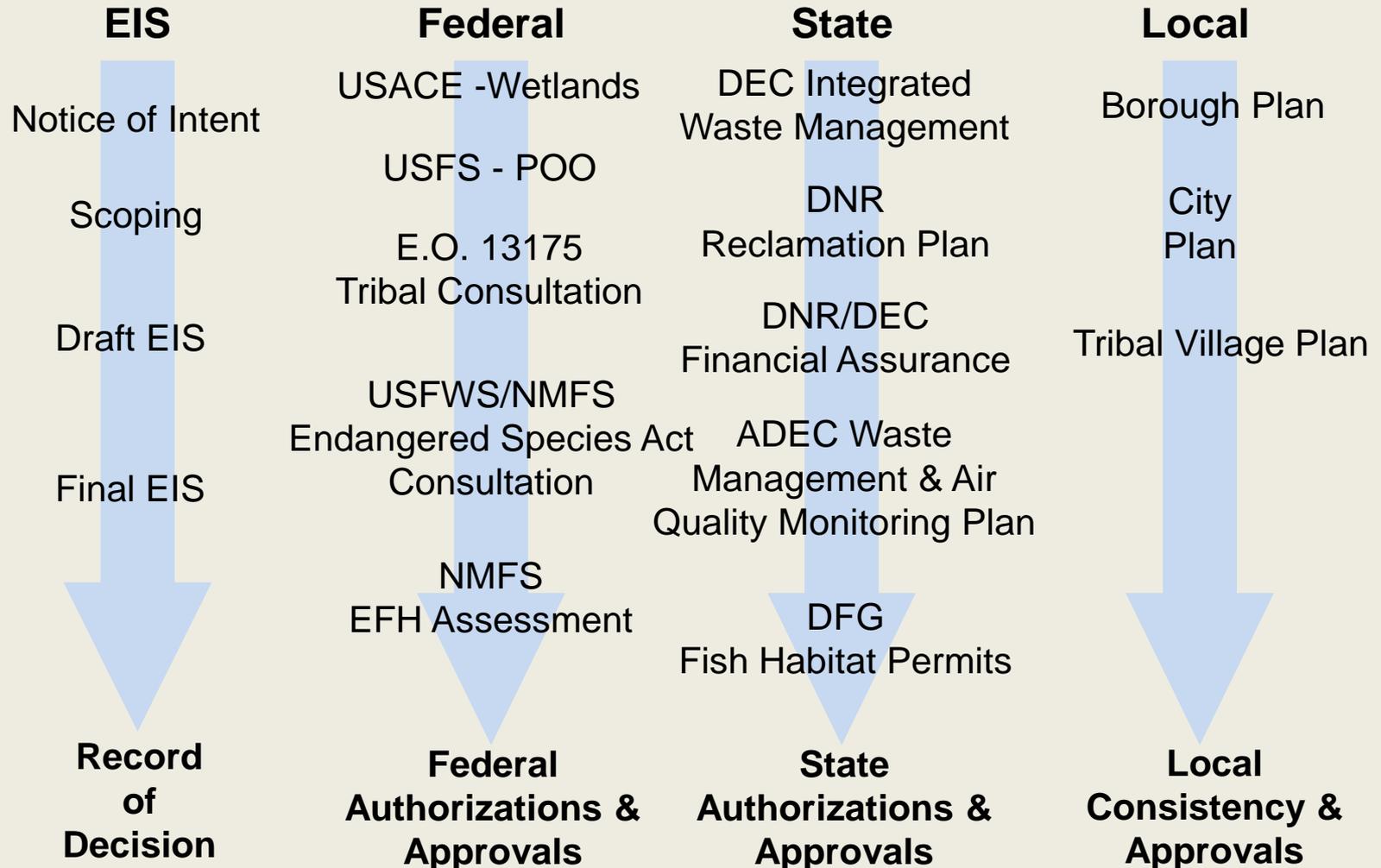


## Primary federal regulatory agencies

- **U.S. Forest Service** – Manages Tongass and Chugach National Forests (~ 22 million acres). Mining requires approved Plan of Operations and EIS.
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** – Manages dredge and fill in wetlands and navigable water ways. Mining requires approvals under Sec. 404 of Clean Water Act and Sec. 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act. Separate EIS not always needed.
- **Environmental Protection Agency** – Consultation role with USACE and USFS, but diminished primary role since State assumed primacy for regulating discharge.<sup>9</sup>

# Alaska's Coordinated Mine Permitting Process

## MULTIPLE PERMITTING/APPROVAL PROCESSES RUN IN PARALLEL



# How Does the LMPT Function for B.C. Mines?



# Alaska's Coordinated Mine Permitting Process



Greens Creek floatation facility



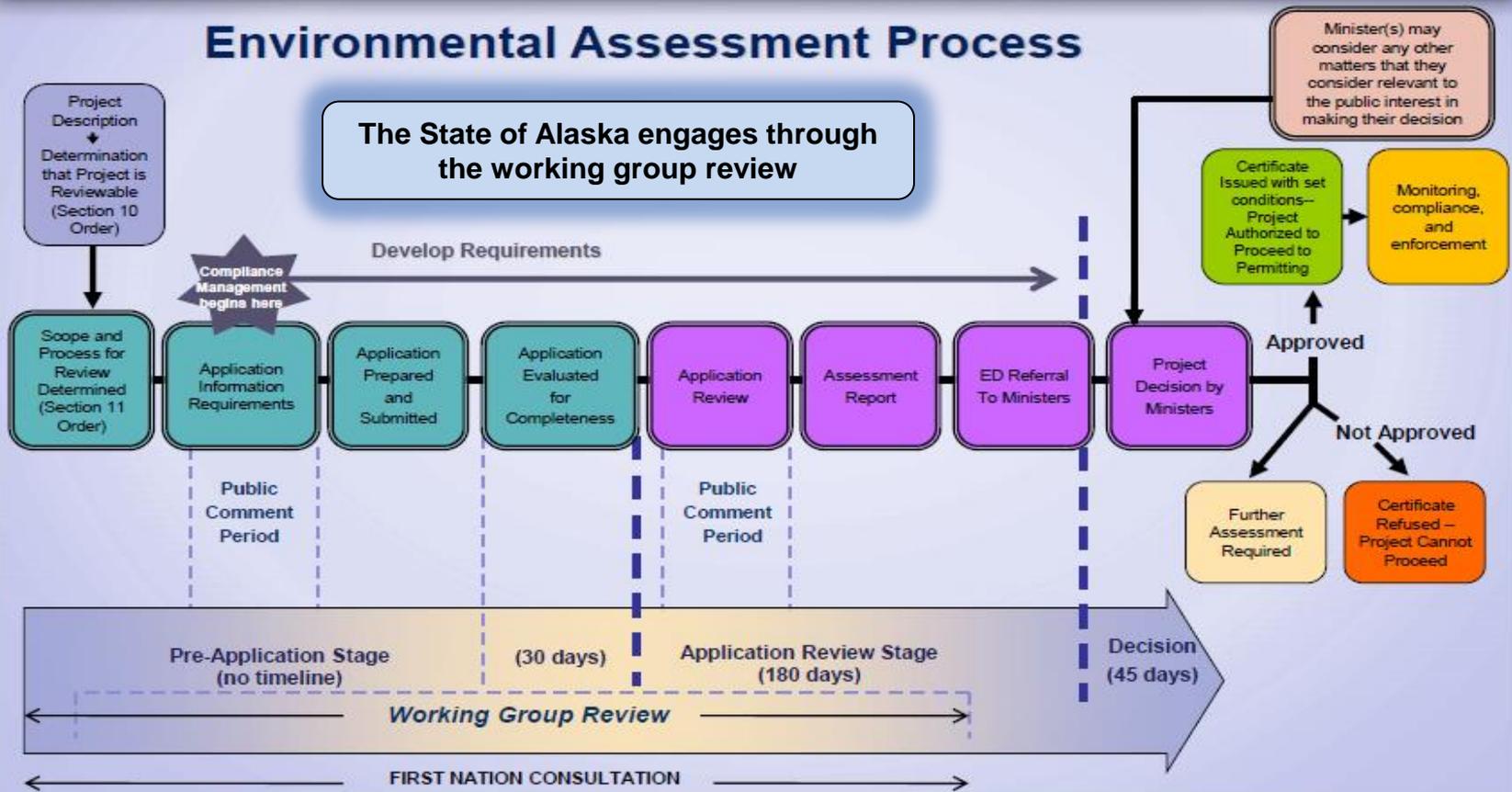
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# British Columbia's Environmental Assessment Process

Environmental Assessment Office

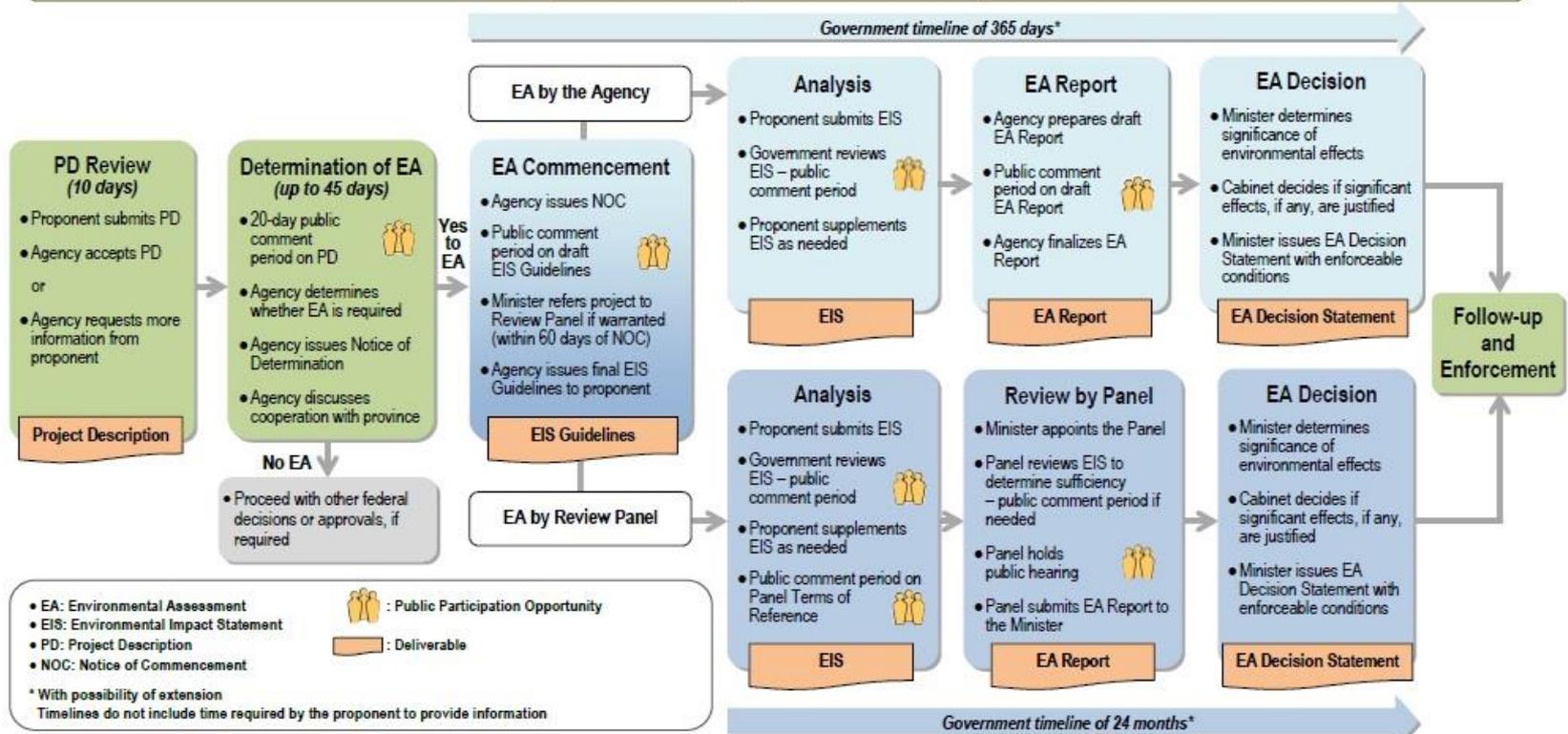
## Environmental Assessment Process



# Canada's Environmental Assessment Process

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS MANAGED BY THE AGENCY

Aboriginal consultation is integrated into the EA to the extent possible



May 2013

[www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca](http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca)

Canada

The State of Alaska participates throughout the "EA by the Agency" process

# Alaska & B.C. Coordination: What's Next?



- Maintain open communication regarding proposed mining projects
- Maintain contact lists at the Department/Ministry level
- Meet annually in Vancouver during AMEBC Round-up
- Continue to engage during environmental assessment processes
- Explore possible programmatic agreement to formalize roles and expectations

# Take Away Points

- Permitting a mine in Alaska follows a rational process, but it is rigorous and can be time consuming to complete
- State of Alaska offers a coordinated team approach – on a “user pay” basis – to help proponents more efficiently navigate the permitting process
- The Large Mine Permit Team (LMPT) can link into federal review processes as a “cooperating agency” and into the B.C. environmental assessment process through the technical working group.
- Water, air, fish, and wildlife quality considerations drive mine design and permitting in Alaska, and drive the State of Alaska’s participation in the review of mines proposed in B.C.
- Multiple review processes run in parallel whether you are in Alaska or B.C., so both jurisdictions commit considerable resources to interagency and intergovernmental coordination, as well as public notice and comment.



Historic Ore Train, Juneau Mine