



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
6881 Abbott Loop Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-2599
<http://www.anchorage.ak.blm.gov>

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(043) rch

MAY 10 2005

HAND DELIVERED

Edrie Vinson, Environmental Project Manager
Federal Highway Administration
709 West 9th Street, Room 851
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Dear Ms. Vinson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the development of an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Knik Arm Crossing Project. Since lands we manage may be affected by approach roads to the bridge project; we agree that we should be a cooperating agency for the development of the EIS. As a cooperating agency we will provide review and comment of the analysis. We will also send representatives to meetings and provide comments when appropriate.

In order to formalize our role and responsibilities, and to adopt your NEPA analysis, we are required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with your Agency. It is my understanding; the U.S. Air Force would also like to be a party to the MOU, since we have a unique, shared management responsibility with them. Some of the lands affected by your project are public lands withdrawn for use by the Air Force. When the BLM issues a right-of-way grant for your project, a letter of non-objection will be required from the Air Force, issued through the Corps of Engineers. By working closely with the Air Force, we hope to provide timely, coordinated feedback, thus limiting delays for this project. We would like to meet with the Air Force and Federal Highway Administration to develop the MOU.

We have conducted internal staff meetings regarding your project. At this time we have no scoping issues to raise that would affect BLM managed lands. As your proposal evolves and more information becomes available, we may offer comments at that time. Please continue to contact Rodney Huffman of my staff at (907) 267-1244, if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely


Gary Reimer
Field Manager