

1 **Minutes of the Public Hearing**
2 **Denali Borough Assembly**
3 **Cantwell Community Center,**
4 **Cantwell, Alaska**
5 **July 10, 2019**
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8 **CALL TO ORDER:**

9 The public hearing was called to order by Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN at 6:08 p.m.
10

11 **ROLL CALL:**

12 Assembly members present: Jake HILL, Don DEBLAUW, Jared ZIMMERMAN, and Tallon
13 SHREEVE. Absent: David EVANS, Joe CHATFIELD, Eileen HOLMES, Krista ZAPPONE and
14 Jill BOELSMA. Mayor Clay Walker was also present. There was not a quorum.
15

16 **ORDINANCE 19-10: Denali Borough Code Chapter 9.10 Titled Subdivisions**

17 There were no comments.
18

19 **ORDINANCE 19-11: Marijuana and Alcohol Tax**

20 Healy area resident, Lisa Kinser, stated that she would like to see a fuel tax proposed
21 instead of an alcohol and marijuana tax. Ms. Kinser believes that taxes should be more
22 evenly distributed and not targeted at any specific behavior or user group. Ms. Kinser also
23 suggested developing a revenue committee to look more in-depth at a wider variety of
24 borough revenue opportunities.
25

26 Cantwell resident Lee Lightfoot stated that he opposes any new taxes, however, many
27 emergency services calls for response involve alcohol and/or marijuana and it seems
28 reasonable to utilize revenue from an alcohol and marijuana tax to off-set borough funds
29 granted to our local emergency response agencies.
30

31 Scott Reisland with Denali Grizzly Bear Resort, stated that he is opposed to an alcohol and
32 marijuana tax. Mr. Reisland explained that the administrative burden on business operators
33 would be substantial for the limited amount of revenue generated. Mr. Reisland expressed
34 that he hopes no additional tax revenue is needed but offered that an increase to the
35 existing overnight accommodation tax would bring in more revenue for the borough with
36 minimal administrative burden for operators. He supports the idea of a committee to
37 examine borough revenue opportunities before a decision is made and recommended that
38 business owners be included as part of the committee.
39

40 Cantwell resident Kevin Schwan stated that he is opposed to an alcohol and marijuana tax.
41 Mr. Schwan pointed out that marijuana is already heavily taxed and regulated by the State
42 of Alaska.

1
2 Healy resident Erik Haugen stated that he supports an alcohol and marijuana tax
3 expressing that the borough needs to diversify the revenue stream. Mr. Haugen stated,
4 additionally, that he would like to see the borough be able to provide some additional
5 services to improve the quality of life for residents.
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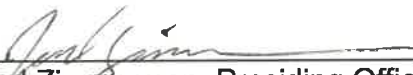
7 **ORDINANCE 19-12: 2019 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)**
8 **Acceptance and Appropriation**

9 There were no comments.

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11 **ADJOURNMENT:**

12 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN adjourned the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.
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15 APPROVED:



Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

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19 ATTEST:



Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

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21
22 Date Approved:

August 7, 2019

1 Assembly members thanked those in attendance and thanked those that provided
2 comments, in addition to the following comments:

3
4 Jared ZIMMERMAN expressed appreciation for the rights and freedom that we enjoy as
5 residents of the Denali Borough and described the challenge to balance the protection of
6 those rights and freedoms while maintaining a safe, diverse, seasonally effected and
7 seasonally growing community. Mr. ZIMMERMAN stated that every assembly action
8 should weigh all viewpoints and considerations to meet that challenge and maintain that
9 balance.

10 11 **COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

12 **UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS; INCLUSIVE CONSERVATION IN DENALI PROJECT TEAM**

13 Ms. Corena van Riper, Mr. Bill Stewart, Mr. Ben Leitschuh, and Ms. Dana Johnson provided
14 an update on their five-year project to research relationships between communities around
15 Denali National Park and Preserve and how those communities view their national park
16 neighbor. The mission of the project is to define a vision for the future of those communities
17 and for Denali National Park and to help the communities and the national park better
18 understand and appreciate these visions, especially in regards to conservation and growth.

19 20 **TAXES**

21 Mayor Walker reviewed a PowerPoint presentation regarding additional tax revenue.
22 There was discussion of the two tax revenue options on the agenda.

23 24 **BOROUGH WIDE ADDRESSING SYSTEM**

25 Denali Borough Emergency Planning Coordinator Chris Noel and Denali Borough Land
26 Planner Marsha Lambert provided a presentation to review and compare two different
27 systems of addressing for the Denali Borough.

28 29 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

30 Healy area resident Erik Haugen suggested that the assembly consider a recess of
31 meetings during the summer months. Mr. Haugen thanked Mr. Zimmerman for his
32 comments.

33 34 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

35 Assembly members thanked those in attendance, in addition to the following comments:

36
37 Tallon SHREEVE thanked University of Illinois team for their presentation. Mr.
38 SHREEVE stated his concern that an increase of the overnight accommodation tax
39 could discourage future tourism.

40
41 Jared ZIMMERMAN stated that he enjoys the work session format and is open to
42 utilizing the work session format more often.

1 Jake HILL encouraged the public to continue to engage in conversations with assembly
2 members and continue to share opinions and thoughts through the public process.


3
4 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

5 The next regular assembly meeting will be on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at the Tri-
6 Valley Community Center, Healy, Alaska. Work session starting at 6:00 PM with the
7 public hearing and regular meeting to follow.

8
9 **ADJOURN:**

10 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN adjourned the work session at 9:26 PM.

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13 APPROVED: _____

14 
Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

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16
17 ATTEST: _____

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19 Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

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23 Date Approved: August 7, 2019



Denali Borough School District

P.O. Box 280 • Healy, Alaska 99743 • (907) 683-2278 • FAX (907) 683-2514

Superintendent's Report Denali Borough Assembly Wednesday, July 10th, 2019

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

Please accept this written report for the month of July.

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Thank you to the Denali Borough Assembly for approving the full local request for education funding. This provides a measure of stability to our students in a time over overall uncertainty for public education in our state.

2. Special Board Meeting

- a. The Denali Borough School Board is hold a special meeting this Thursday the 11th at 6 pm in the District Office. The sole item for consideration is a draft resolution to oppose the recent vetoes from the Governor to the approved FY20 State Operating Budget and supporting overriding those vetoes.

3. Finances

- a. FY19 Budget – With the 2019 fiscal year formally ended, we are no preparing for our annual financial report (audit). The site visit from our auditing firm is scheduled for early August.
- b. FY20 State Funding – The status of funding for the current fiscal year continues to be the subject of legal process between the legislature and the governor. The State Department of Education and Early develop confirmed that it will distribute payments in July to school districts. This will occur a little later than usual in order to provide specific legal basis for the lawsuit to move forward while still providing needed monies to school districts to ensure uninterrupted operations while the constitutional question is being answered by the courts.
- c. FY21 State Funding – Forward funding for FY21 was included in the FY20 operating budget. This is one of the many items that were vetoed by Governor Dunleavy with the line item veto authority.

4. Facilities

- a. Cantwell Roof Project – Construction is progressing and on time on the Cantwell Roof Project.

Mission Statement

Nurturing, empowering and inspiring today's student to positively shape tomorrow's world.

ATTACHMENT A

- b. Anderson Boiler - Installed and holding pressure. Heating unit is being installed and tested.
- c. Asbestos Abatement – Removal of the asbestos contaminate material has been completed. We are now continuing our internal work to redo the flooring in these areas.
- d. We approved the surplussing of several extremely old, outdated, and unfixable items and are disposing of these items.

5. Professional Development

- a. This summer several teachers are attending workshops for EL Education. These teachers are Uwe Hoffman, Gretchen Striker, Kelly Gebauer, Christy Piercy, Samantha Ward, Paula Newton, Jeni Mason, Stephanie Stickle, and Lauren Jeffrey.
- b. Hannah Ragland, Craig Kasemodel, Nathan Pitt and Lauren Jeffrey are also attending the summer convening of NWRise, a support network for rural teachers in the Pacific Northwest.

6. Personnel

- a. Certified Staff
 - i. We are fully staffed for the start of the school year.
- b. Classified Staff
 - i. We accepted resignations from several classified staff including
 1. Trena Haugen – Lunch Aide at Tri-Valley
 2. Erinn Martin – Teaching Assistant at Tri-Valley
 3. Tina Penn – Lunch Aide at Tri-Valley
 4. Jennifer Williams – Lunch Aide at Tri-Valley
 5. Daryl Turley – Teaching Assistant at Anderson
 6. Additionally Dani Talerico, Teaching assistant at Tri-Valley resigned earlier in the year effective at the end of the FY19 school year.
- c. Exempt Staff
 - i. No Updates
- d. Temporary Staff
 - i. No updates.

Sincerely,

Dan Polta
Denali Borough School District

DENALI BOROUGH

P.O. Box 480 • Healy, Alaska 99743
Phone: (907) 683-1330 • Fax: (907) 683-1340
Email: dbgovt@mtaonline.net
Website: www.denaliborough.com



Clay Walker, Mayor

July 2019 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

This report speaks primarily to non-agenda items. Agenda items will be discussed in meeting.

Clear Air Force Station Change of Command Ceremony

- I attended the June 20 ceremony in which Lt. Col. Jeff Rutherford transferred command to Lt Col. Shawn Lee. Colonel Matthew Cantore, Commander of the 21st Operations Group, presided over the ceremony.
- This annual event is an excellent opportunity to build relationships with base personnel and others. Representatives from the City of Nenana, the Governor's Office and Senator Sullivan's Office were also in attendance.

Clear Air Force Station (CAFS) Expanded Special Use Airspace (SUA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- The request from the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is for organizations, agencies, or individuals to provide comment which will help inform the preparation of a draft EIS for the proposed expansion of the restricted airspace around and up from the station.
- I attended the July 1 meeting of the City of Anderson Council, when the Council considered a response to the CAFS SUA EIS request. A letter of concern from statewide aviation groups was shared. City of Anderson Fire Chief Scott Thompson shared his concern to public safety should life flights would not be able to use the Clear Airport.
- The State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, owner and maintainer of the Clear Airport, believes that if the Special Use Airspace is expanded as proposed, the Clear Airport would be rendered unusable. As such, in their comments the State requested that the Missile Defense Agency, should the proposed expansion go forward, fund both a site selection study and the relocation of the existing airport.
- The borough, in reviewing all the information, did provide comment prior to the July 5, 2019 deadline. We stated that the Clear Airport, at over 4,000 feet in length, is the longest paved and lighted airport in the Denali Borough and its loss would adversely impact the health and welfare of the people of the borough, as well as the safety of civil aviation. The borough equally requested that if the airspace expansion shuts down the Clear Airport, that a relocation be planned and constructed.

Rex Pit Gravel Extraction Permit

- The Denali Borough has applied to the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources for a gravel extraction permit at the Rex Pit on the north side of the Rex Bridge. The borough has listed contractors associated with the Kobe Farm Community non-profit as potential operators in the pit. The intention is to support the planned public road improvement of Kobe Road through the provision of gravel resources.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Alaska Liquefied Natural Gas Project (AKLNG) proposed by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC)

- On Friday June 28, FERC released the Draft EIS for the AKLNG project. With three volumes and multiple appendices, the document totals over 4,000 pages.
- I reviewed the document for relevant local descriptions and impacts. I will draft letter of comment and bring the draft to the Planning Commission, who has weighed in on alignments and related topics in the past. Later, I will bring the revised draft of comments to the Assembly.
- Comments are due by October 3, 2019. I understand that FERC intends to hold a public meeting in the borough to solicit comment, although no date or dates have been set at this time.
- The document, including the alignment maps and evaluation of alternative Denali Alignment, is available at : <https://www.ferc.gov/industries/gas/enviro/eis/2019/06-28-19-DEIS.asp>

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) meeting regarding ground water monitoring

- On June 19, I met with our regulators at DEC in Fairbanks. We discussed the groundwater monitoring plan, called a QAPP, potentially amending the plan, the need for quality data, and the requirement of DEC to oversee a monitoring plan which meets the goals of environmental protection, while also using site specific discretion.

DEC Annual Inspection at the Denali Borough Landfill is scheduled for Friday, July 12

Highway signs for Healy Transfer Station are installed (Thanks Scott and Buster!)

Letter of Support to the Alaska Railroad Corporation (AKRR) for Seward Dock Build grant

- In response to a request, I sent a letter of support to the Alaska Railroad as they seek to utilize a federal transportation grant program (BUILD) to expand the dock facility in Seward. The expanded dock facility could allow for additional cruise passengers and potentially additional raw material cargo.

8 Mile Lake Permafrost Research Tour

- On June 26, I attended a tour of three different research sites off of Stampede Road near Eight Mile Lake. Two sites are focused on permafrost research and the third is a monitoring station which is part of an open data ecological monitoring network, called NEON. The level, and potential value, of scientific exploration and monitoring was certainly impressive. Thanks to Dave Schirokauer at Denali NPS for organizing the event.

Healy Centennial / Fourth of July Celebration

- At this writing, I look forward to the celebration of our nation's birthday and our communities start. Thanks in advance to the Denali Chamber of Commerce and the Healy Lions Club for hosting and supporting the event. The borough is participating with a truck in the parade (Thanks for the decorating Connie!) and a welcome at the Otto Lake barbeque.

Legislative Update

- Line items of the Governor's vetoes which directly affect the Denali Borough include zeroing out Local Emergency Planning Committee funding (-\$10,400) and not capitalizing (or "backfilling") the Community Assistance Program Fund. If the vetoes hold, as expected, the borough should expect to receive one third less next fiscal year (or about \$110,000 less) in Community Assistance from the State of Alaska.

Happy July, happy fishing. As always, feel free to contact me or staff with any questions.

- Clay



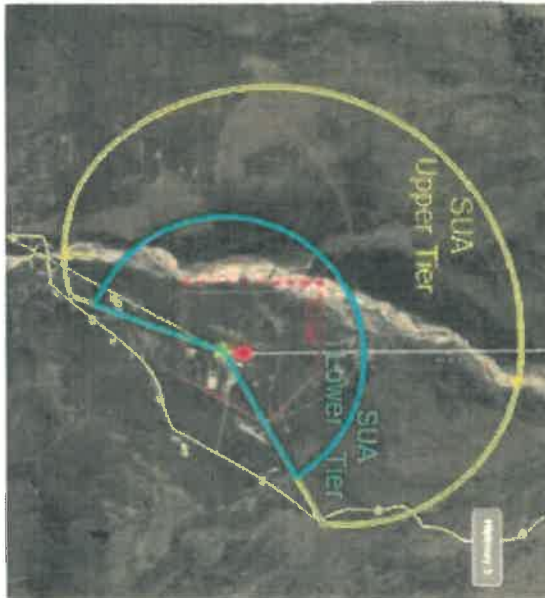
LONG RANGE DISCRIMINATION RADAR SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PROPOSED R-22206

Alaska Sectional Chart with existing R-2206 and draft SUA



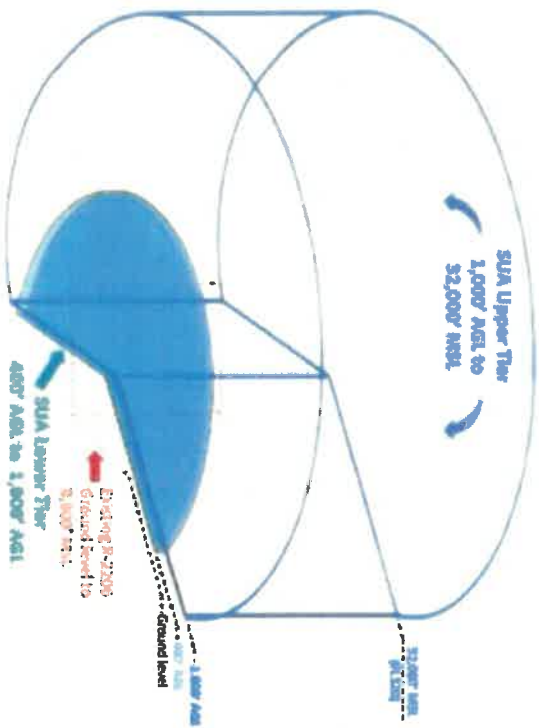
Clear AFS, existing R-2206 and draft SUA



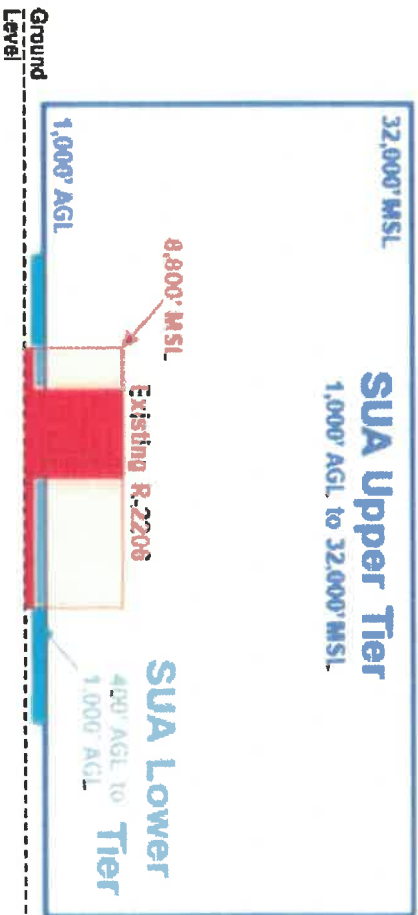
ACRONYM KEY

- AFS: Air Force Station
- AGL: Above Ground Level
- LRDR: Long Range Discrimination Radar
- MSL: Mean Sea Level
- SUA: Special Use Airspace

ATTACHMENT B



2D Side View of draft LRDR Special Use Airspace at Clear AFS



Approved for Public Release
19-MDA-10067 (24 May 19)



Is there an impact for residents in the area?

The primary impact to residents would be the potential change to airspace access around the Clear Air Force Station. This change would require pilots to remain outside the restricted air space. The radar will not radiate the ground, water, people, or housing areas.

What is the schedule for completion of the EIS?

The entire EIS process is expected to take approximately 1 year. The process starts with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register and commencement of a 30-day scoping period. Public scoping meetings in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Anderson will occur during the scoping period, which is anticipated in June 2019.

Will MDA be coordinating with other agencies on this EIS?

Throughout the development of the EIS, MDA will coordinate with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies and Alaska Native Tribes. MDA will solicit and consider agency and tribal input concerning potential impacts from the additional SUA and will incorporate their comments, as appropriate, in the Draft and Final EIS.

MDA will comply with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in parallel with this NEPA process and will invite federally recognized tribes and the State Historic Preservation Officer to participate in the consultation process.

How is public input included in the EIS process?

One of the essential components of the EIS development is to engage and educate the public about this project. The public is invited and encouraged to participate throughout the EIS process. MDA desires to understand the communities' interests and concerns regarding the proposed additional SUA for operation of the LRDR at CAFS in Alaska.

When does the comment period end and how do I provide comments?

The formal public scoping comment period is May 17 to July 5, 2019. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed action or request additional information about the project can email the project team at: info@cleareis.com or mail to Clear Air Force Station LRDR EIS c/o HDR, 2525 C Street, Suite 500, Anchorage, AK 99503.



What is MDA proposing to do?

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration and United States Air Force, to inform a decision on the design of additional Special Use Airspace (SUA) necessary for the operation of a Long Range Discrimination Radar (LRDR) at the Clear Air Force Station (CAFS) in Alaska.

What is MDA's purpose and need for the proposed action?

The purpose of the additional SUA at CAFS is to support LRDR operations and provide protection from high intensity radiated fields (HIRF) for aircraft operating in the vicinity.

This action is needed as the LRDR's original operational concept did not take into account the planned change in operational tempo and expanded threat space to meet evolving threats. The MDA requires the land-based LRDR to support fielding of enhanced homeland defense capability as a key component of the BMDS.

Why does MDA need to prepare an EIS for an LRDR?

Operation of the LRDR with planned operational tempo and threat space requires MDA to prepare an EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The 2016 environmental assessment for construction and operation of the LRDR was based on knowledge of the threat at that time and did not anticipate a requirement for additional SUA.

Will the project improve missile defense of the United States?

The LRDR will be an integral part of the US Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) System and enhance Homeland defense by increasing the efficiency and lethality of BMD missile interceptors.

What are the anticipated environmental impacts?

The purpose of the EIS is to evaluate potential impacts associated with the additional SUA and we anticipate that the most significant impacts would be to socioeconomics and airspace. Other impacts, as identified, will be assessed in the EIS.