

STATE OF ALASKA

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July 28, 2005

Ted Heuer, Refuge Manager
Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge
101 12th Avenue, Room 264 Box 14
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Mr. Heuer:

The State of Alaska has reviewed the February 2005 Evaluation and Review of a Proposed Land Exchange and Acquisition of Native Lands within the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. This letter contains the consolidated comments of the State's resource agencies.

The State supports the exchange at this conceptual stage to facilitate the opportunity for responsible oil and gas development. The proposed agreement in principal is mutually beneficial to both Doyon Ltd. (Doyon) and its shareholders, and the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for the significant economic opportunity it provides for this and future generations, and for the quality fish and wildlife habitat that will be added to the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

We understand that although Section 1302(h) of Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act exempts land exchanges between the Service and a Native corporation from the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, based on requests from Doyon and the public, the Service has decided to further evaluate the proposed land exchange through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The State will provide more detailed comments during the EIS review period.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Susan E. Magee
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Sally Gibert, ANILCA Program Coordinator