

HIAs For Natural Resources Development Project in Alaska

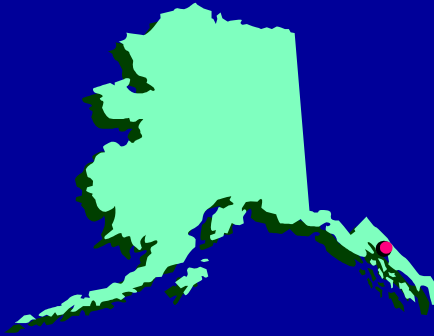
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HIA Background—Alaska

- 2004 HIAs (Wernham)
 - NPR-AK (BLM)
 - Red Dog lead mine (EPA)
- Interest and concern
- Inevitability of future HIA requests
- State guidance document needed

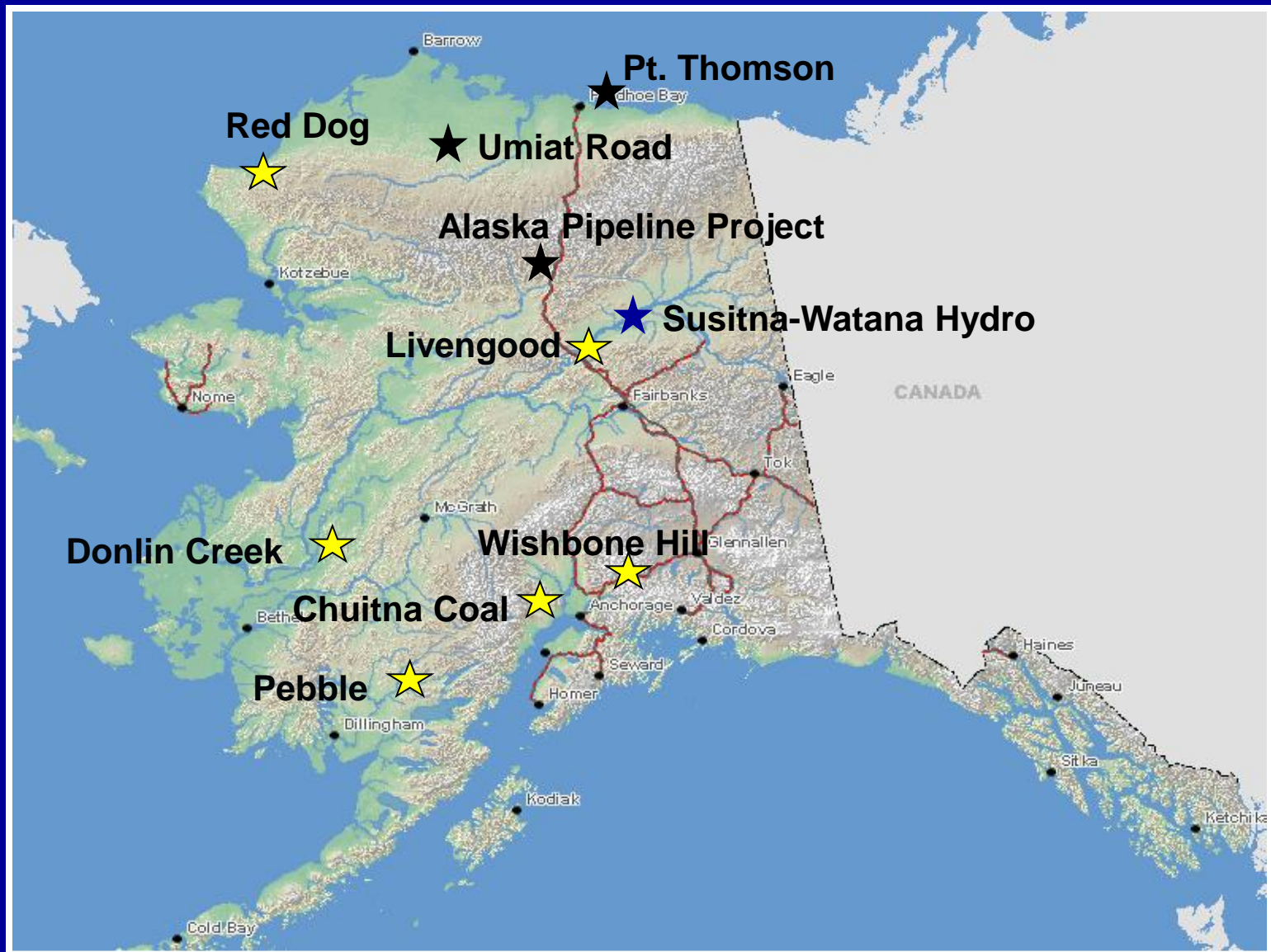


HIA Background—Alaska

- 2008—1st HIA workshop
- Created interagency working group
- Produced HIA toolkit
- Felt need for coordinated leadership
- HIA program founded in DHSS
- Began HIA work in July, 2010



Current HIAs In Alaska



Donlin Creek Gold Mine





U.S. POST OFFICE
LOWER KALSKAG
99626





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POWER PLANT
CONTRACTOR OWN

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WILMINGTON
BEACON
STATION

U.S. GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY



Health Support For Large Mine Permitting Team

- **Department of Natural Resources (Leader)**
- Department of Environmental Conservation
- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Law
- **Department of Health and Social Services**

Advantages of HIA Program

- Health expertise at table
- Neutrality & objectivity
- Existing partnerships
- Access to health data
- Systematic approach (Toolkit)
- Diverse project involvement
- Sustainable funding
- Longevity

Challenges: Mission

DNR

- "To **responsibly develop** Alaska's resources by making them available for maximum use and **benefit** consistent with the **public interest**."

DHSS

- "To promote and protect the **health and well-being** of Alaskans"

Challenges: Funding

Challenge

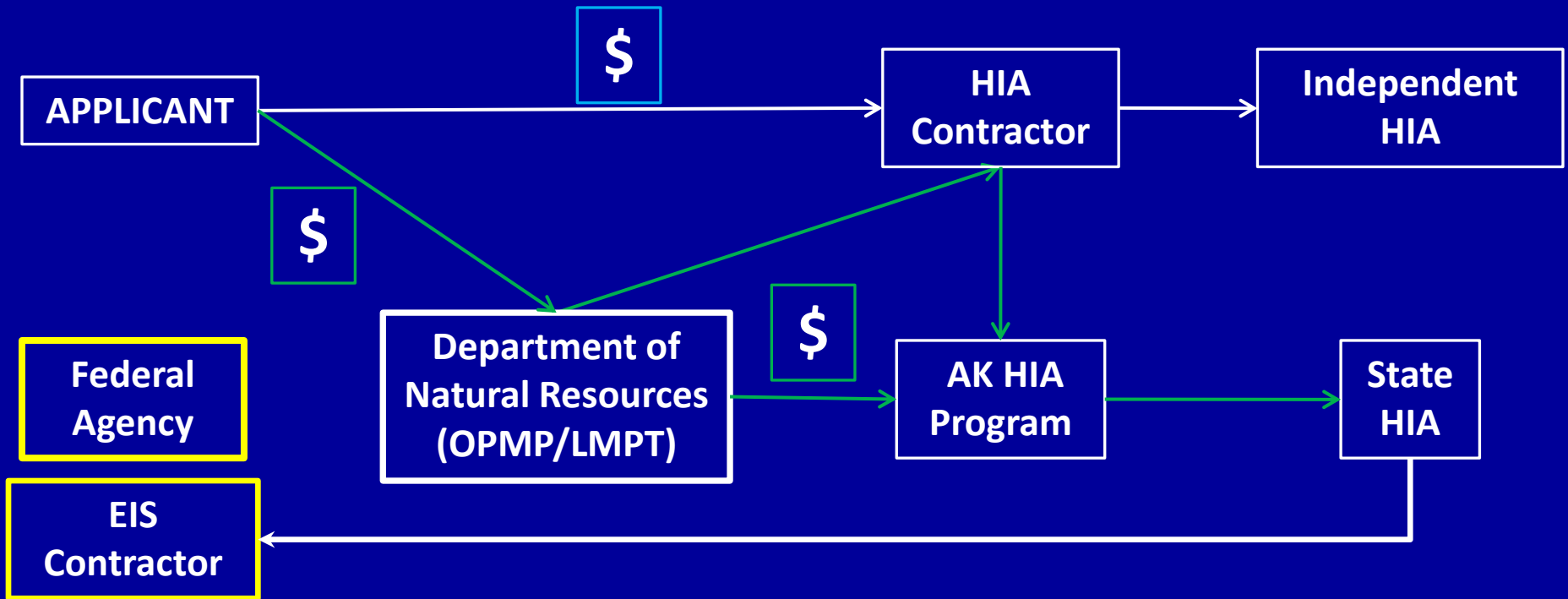
- HIA not required
- Applicants may refuse \$
- Minimal cooperation
- Critical of process
- DNR in middle
- HSS in “limbo”

Current Approach

- Federal request
- EIS “best practices”
- Formal request letter
- DNR and DHSS respond
- HIA for Feds
- Applicant funding

Thank You

HIA Funding in AK (NEPA)



Who does the HIA?

Federal Lead Agency

N E P A



Federal Cooperating Agencies

- EPA
- MMS
- BLM
- USACE
- FERC
- Other

State Cooperating Agencies

- DNR (LEAD)
- DHSS*
- DEC
- ADF&G
- DOT
- Others

Produces EIS

Local Cooperating Entities

- Municipalities
- Tribal Governments
- Boroughs
- Cities
- Counties
- Others

Proponents

- Corporations
- State Government
- Cities
- Boroughs
- Others

Contractors

- Environmental
- Socioeconomic
- Human health
- NEPA specific
- Others