

Introduced by: Council Member Whitney  
Date: May 8, 2012  
May 22, 2012  
June 12, 2012  
June 26, 2012  
July 10, 2012  
Action: Passed  
Vote: 6-0

## *CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA*

### **Resolution # 12-12**

#### **A RESOLUTION BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING SPECIAL CONSIDERATION OF MERCURY MANAGEMENT FOR MINING OPERATIONS ALONG THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER WATERSHED**

**WHEREAS**, large scale mining will encourage economic development, job creation, and prosperity in Bethel and the Kuskokwim Region;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel supports safe and environmentally responsible economic development, including mining;

**WHEREAS**, the type of geology found in the area of the Kuskokwim contains high concentrations of mercury and has been referred to as the "mercury belt";

**WHEREAS**, the people of the Kuskokwim have traditionally enjoyed subsistence lifestyles which include consuming pike, burbot, and predatory fish;

**WHEREAS**, there is currently a fish consumption advisory in effect along the middle Kuskokwim River because of the methyl-mercury content of some species;

**WHEREAS**, air, water and fish tissue monitoring before, during and after the operational life of a large scale mine would provide timely mercury exposure data and allow for immediate correction and mitigation should mercury contamination problems arise.

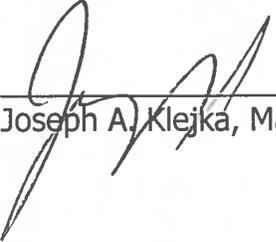
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** The City of Bethel supports and promotes responsible and safe development of large scale mining on the Kuskokwim.

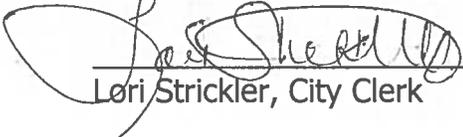
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The City of Bethel requests the State and Federal Governments, to examine potential mercury exposure pathways and consider requiring air, water, and tissue sampling to be conducted as part of the permit process.

The City of Bethel supports full compliance by large scale mines and complete, rigorous enforcement by State and Federal authorities of all applicable laws and regulations, including and especially the safe handling and monitoring of mercury.

**ENACTED THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2012 BY A VOTE OF 6 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.**

  
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Joseph A. Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
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Lori Strickler, City Clerk