

**Full Metal Zinc, Ltd.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Land Use Permit**

For

Full Metal Zinc, Limited  
409 Grandville Street  
Suite 1500  
Vancouver, BC V6C 1T2

FF096409  
DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2012-0020-EA

**Located in:**

Eastern Interior Field Office  
Township 8S. Ranges 24E. and 25E., Fairbanks Meridian  
Approximately 29 miles Northwest of Chicken, Alaska  
Near Sheba Mountain

**Prepared by:**

U. S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Eastern Interior Field Office  
1150 University Ave.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844

## **I. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action**

### BLM Purpose and Need:

BLM manages and administers the use of federal public lands and resources in the Eastern Interior of Alaska and is obligated to respond to applications for legitimate uses of those lands and resources.

Full Metal Zinc, Limited (formerly Full Metal Minerals) has filed an application for a Land Use Permit to authorize their exploratory core drilling activities on public lands. BLM needs to respond to the application under the authority of Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the regulations found in 43 CFR 2920.

### Applicant's Purpose and Need:

Doyon, Limited has a need to gather information about the size, type and extent of mineral deposits located on lands which they have selected for conveyance to them under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Therefore, they have entered into an agreement with Full Metal Zinc to conduct exploratory core drilling activities to gather that information. In order to conduct such activities, Full Metal Zinc needs a Land Use Permit to authorize their use of the land. Their use will entail construction of wooden platforms from which to drill; short term storage of fuel to supply the drill rigs; water pumps and hose which supply water necessary for drilling; short term storage of drill pipe, as well as other miscellaneous tools and equipment necessary to support the operation.

BLM Decision to be Made: The BLM will make a decision whether or not to issue Full Metal Zinc a Land Use Permit to authorize their core drilling activities on public lands. The BLM will also determine whether or not mitigation measures will be required to minimize adverse impacts to the environment and to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands.

## **II. Potential Issues:**

Internal Scoping: Some of the proposed drill sites have been identified as having the **potential** for unknown cultural resources. Qualified archaeologists will conduct pedestrian surveys of the identified sites and appropriate actions will be taken in accordance with the results of their findings. See subsequent sections of this EA for details.

The following environmental components were identified as being affected to a minor extent, but not needing to be analyzed in this NEPA document: *Invasive non-native species; soils; subsistence; wastes, hazardous or solid; water quality and wildlife.*

External Scoping: The proposed action is not likely to cause any public concern or controversy; therefore, no external scoping is planned.

## **III. Location, Land Status and Conformance with Land Use Plans:**

Location: The proposed action would be located approximately 29 miles northwest of Chicken, Alaska. The specific lands affected are within section 13 of Township 8 South, Range 24 East, Fairbanks Meridian and within sections 2, 3, 4 and 9 of Township 8 south, Range 25 East, Fairbanks Meridian.

Land Status: The subject lands are currently withdrawn by Public Land Order 5321(which amended PLO 5173) and are selected by Doyon, Limited, a Regional Native Corporation.

Conformance with Land Use Plans: The Proposed Action is located within an area covered by the Fortymile Management Framework Plan of 1980. That plan recognizes conveyance of lands to native corporations, but also suggests that those lands which are not conveyed, after full entitlement has been completed, should be restored as public land open to mineral entry.

#### **IV. Proposed Action and Alternatives:**

##### Proposed Action Alternative:

The applicant proposes to drill approximately nine(9) mineral exploration holes in eight (8) separate geographic locations using two helicopter portable Hydracore 2000 or similar drill rigs. The holes will be drilled to a maximum depth of 1,000 feet using NQII (3.5 inch diameter) sized tools. Core samples will be approximately 1.75" in diameter. The drill rigs will be mounted on 16' x 16' wooden pads/platforms constructed out of dimensional lumber and timbers. Water will be pumped from local streams to be used in the drilling operations. Water intake lines will have screens with ¼ inch or smaller mesh placed at intake to prevent fish entrapment/entrainment. All additives will be biodegradable and all return water will be recirculated or dispersed upon the tundra.

Fuel will be stored on site in 55 gallon drums. Drums will be stored more than 100 feet from flowing waters at all times. All drums and fuel equipment will be stored in lined containment berms. No more than eight (8) drums will be present on site at any given time. All equipment, storage, and petroleum product containers, including barrels, and propane tanks will be marked with Full Metal Zinc name and product type. Appropriate spill response equipment and supplies, such as absorbent pads, will be on hand at drill sites and fueling stations. Spills will be reported to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (1-800-478-9300) as soon as possible. Within 24 hours of discovery, notice will be given to the BLM Authorized Officer's representative at 907-474-2200, or the BLM Eastern Interior Field Office Hazmat Coordinator at 907-474-2371.

Efforts will be made to keep exploration activities from disturbing local wildlife at all times. During calving (May 11-27) and post-calving (May 28-June 30) periods, FMZ will contact the ADF&G Tok office weekly to prevent drilling activities from interfering with the Fortymile Caribou Herd.

The applicant's base camp and staging area will be located on private lands near the community of Chicken, Alaska.

The other exploration activity that may occur is surface rock sampling. If it does occur, it will be conducted by hand and will not involve any appreciable surface disturbance; and is therefore considered casual use.

##### No Action Alternative:

The No Action alternative would deny use of the public lands to the applicant and thereby deny Doyon, Limited the information it desires in order to make informed decisions regarding mineral potential and development.

## V. Affected Environment:

The lands in question are located in a remote part of Interior Alaska and are without road access. Ongoing uses of the area are thought to consist primarily of hunting and trapping. Use levels are relatively low due to the difficulty and cost of accessing the area.

Cultural: Archaeological pedestrian surveys by qualified archaeologists in the upper Middle Fork Fortymile drainage have found prehistoric cultural sites on ridge tops and elevated topographic features matching those proposed for drilling in this EA.

## VI. Impacts – Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative:

Cultural: Based upon ground cover, topographic features apparent on USGS quadrangle maps, and previous pedestrian archaeological surveys in the upper Middle Fork Fortymile drainage, there is a possibility of direct adverse impacts to unknown cultural resources in sections 2, 4 and 9 of Township 8 south, Range 25 East, Fairbanks Meridian.

There are no anticipated indirect or cumulative impacts to cultural resources from the proposed action.

### Mitigating Measures for Proposed Alternative

Cultural: *Section 13* of Township 8 South, Range 24 East, Fairbanks Meridian, has been surveyed for cultural resources in 2010. Nothing was found. Drilling, as described in the Proposed Action, may proceed without further cultural action in this section.

*Section 3* of Township 8 south, Range 25 East, Fairbanks Meridian, has not been surveyed for cultural resources. However, based upon the thicker ground cover present in this area, and the exact nature of the actions specific in the Proposed Action, there is little likelihood of adversely impacting buried cultural resources in this locale. Drilling, as described in the Proposed Action, may proceed without further cultural action in this section.

*Sections 2, 4 and 9* of Township 8 south, Range 25 East, Fairbanks Meridian, have not been surveyed for cultural resources and have the potential to contain potentially significant prehistoric archaeological sites based upon landforms present. **Drilling may NOT proceed in these sections until they have examined by archaeologists by pedestrian survey.** BLM archaeologists are scheduled to perform these surveys in the June 27-29, 2012 timeframe. I recommend that the BLM provide a permit for the proposed drilling operation so long as there is a stipulation in the permit that no drilling, or set up for drilling, occur at the proposed drill sites in Sections 2, 4, and 9 until the archaeological survey takes place.

If no cultural sites are found in the locations of the proposed drill holes in Sections 2, 4, and 9, then BLM archaeologists will provide a notice to proceed in writing to Full Metal Zinc personnel at that time in late June.

If cultural sites ARE found in the locations of the proposed drill holes in Sections 2, 4, and 9, then BLM archaeologists will clearly mark these sites on the ground with labeled flagging, take GPS points, and photographs. These points and photos will then be printed out and will accompany the notice to proceed, which will be provided in writing to Full Metal Zinc personnel in late June. There will be no drilling within 75 feet of any cultural sites present.

In addition to the above verbiage, the following paragraph, outlining basic laws pertaining to cultural resources, needs to be attached to the completed package associated with DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2012-0019-EA:

All operations shall be conducted in such a manner as not to cause damage or disturbance to any historical or archaeological sites and artifacts. The Antiquities Act (1906), Archaeological Resources Protection Act (1979), Federal Land Policy and Management Act (1976), and general United State property laws and regulations, all prohibit the appropriation, excavation, injury, or destruction of any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any other object of antiquity situated on lands owned or controlled by the United States (16 U.S.C. 470; 16 U.S.C. 432; 43 U.S. 1733(a); 18 U.S.C. 1361; 18 U.S.C. 641; 43 CFR 8365.1). Such items include both prehistoric stone tools and sites, as well as historic log cabins, remnants of such structures, refuse dumps, and other such features. Should any such site be discovered during the course of field operations, the permittee should avoid impacting such materials, and will immediately notify the Authorized Officer, who will contact a qualified cultural resource specialist to evaluate the discovery, take action to protect or remove the resource, and allow operations to proceed.

**Residual Impacts:**

No residual impacts have been identified.

**No Action Alternative:**

**Cultural Resources**

There are no adverse impacts (either direct, indirect or cumulative) from the No Action alternative.

**Mitigation and Residual Effects**

There are no effects to cultural resources from the No Action alternative.

## VII. Consultation and Coordination:

### Persons/Agencies Consulted

Full Metal Zinc, Limited	Applicant		
Ruth Gronquist	Wildlife Biologist	Invasive, Nonnative Species, Vegetation, Threatened/Endangered Species, Subsistence, Wildlife/Terrestrial	BLM
Jason Post	Fisheries Biologist	Essential Fish Habitat, Wildlife/Aquatic	BLM
Holli McClain	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Visual Resources, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Recreation, Wilderness	BLM
Robin Mills	Archeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	BLM
Skip Theisen	Fire Management Specialist	Fire Management	BLM
Vic Wallace	Realty Specialist	Lands	BLM
Ben Kennedy	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Floodplains, Water Quality, Wetlands/Riparian, Soils	BLM
Collin Cogley	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Environmental Justice, Farm Lands	BLM
Rebecca Hile	Physical Scientist	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	BLM
Darrel Vandeweg	Geologist	Mineral Resources	BLM

### List of Attachments

Attachment A	Assessment of Archeological, Historical, and Paleontological Resources (2 pp)
Attachment B	Compliance with ANILCA Section 810 Evaluation and Findings (1 pp)

  
Preparer's Signature  
Vic Wallace  
Realty Specialist

5/29/2012  
Date

## Decision Record

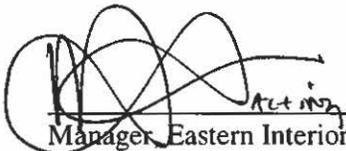
Issuance of a Land Use Permit (2920 06) to Full Metal Zinc to conduct exploratory core drilling activities on public lands (near the headwaters of Little Whiteman Creek) approximately 29 miles northwest of Chicken, Alaska.

**FF096409**

Decision: It is my decision to authorize exploratory core drilling activities on BLM-managed lands near the headwaters of the Little Whiteman Creek drainage within the Eastern Interior Field Office geographic area. A Land Use Permit will be issued to Full Metal Zinc, Limited for a period of three (3) years, in accordance with regulations found in 43 CFR 2920 and pursuant to Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Rationale:

1. The proposed action is consistent with the use of public lands under the authority of Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act and the regulations found in 43 CFR 2920.
2. All concerns are appropriately addressed in EA DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2012-0020. This includes cultural resources and subsistence concerns (see attached NHPA Section 106 and ANILCA 810 findings).

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Manager, Eastern Interior Field Office

5/30/12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Appeal Provisions:**

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the authorized officer and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)).

Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the authorized officer at Eastern Interior Field Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks Alaska 99709. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the authorized officer. If you wish to file a petition for stay of the effectiveness of this decision pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and must show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success

on the merits, (3) The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted, and (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay. If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the authorized officer. A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adverse party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and on the Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 4230 University Drive Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99508, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the authorized officer and/or IBLA.

Contact Person

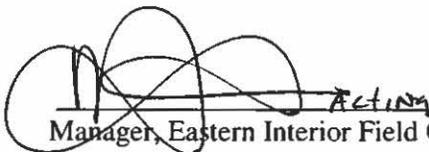
For additional information concerning this decision, contact Vic Wallace at the Eastern Interior Field Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99709, or by telephone at 907-474-2363.

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

Land Use Permit (2920 06) application FF096409  
For exploratory core drilling activities on public lands

Finding of No Significant Impact:

I have reviewed Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2012-0020-EA and have concluded that the impacts of exploratory core drilling activities on public lands near the headwaters of Little Whiteman Creek in the vicinity of Sheba Mountain of the Eastern Interior Field Office geographic area ( T.8S., R.24E. and T.8S., R.25E., Fairbanks Meridian) have been adequately addressed. There are no impacts that approached the threshold of significance. Therefore, I have determined that a Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate and an environmental impact statement is not required.

  
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Acting  
Manager, Eastern Interior Field Office

5/30/12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date