



CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

June 4, 2020

The Honorable Michael Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

Thank you for your letter dated August 9, 2019 requesting the Bokan – Dotson Ridge Project be identified as a high priority infrastructure project pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13766, “Expediting Environmental Reviews and Approvals for High Priority Infrastructure Projects.” The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regularly coordinates with other Federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), to align various permitting improvement and infrastructure initiatives.

Under E.O. 13766, the Chairman of CEQ is required to determine whether an infrastructure project qualifies as a “high priority” infrastructure project in response to a request of a Governor of a State or the head of any executive department or agency. E.O. 13807, “Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects,” provided further direction on the types of projects that may qualify as high priority infrastructure projects and how the criteria of E.O. 13766 may be satisfied.

It is CEQ’s understanding that the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) has not received a completed Plan of Operations for the Bokan – Dotson Ridge Project. Given the lack of complete information to evaluate the project in accordance with E.O. 13766 and E.O. 13807, CEQ is unable to designate the Bokan – Dotson Ridge Project as a high priority infrastructure project at this time. Recognizing the complexity of most mining projects, including the requirement for multiple authorizations by Federal agencies and the likelihood that an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be required under the National Environmental Policy Act, CEQ forwarded your letter to USDA Secretary Perdue. CEQ has requested that if the Forest Service receives a completed Plan of Operations and determines that an EIS is required, that the Forest Service complete the environmental review in a timely manner consistent with E.O. 13807, the One Federal Decision policy, and the related Memorandum of Understanding executed in April 2018.

Thank you for your request related to this project and for your continued support of the Administration's efforts to improve the efficiency and timeliness of the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary B. Neumayr".

Mary B. Neumayr
Chairman

cc: Douglas Hoelscher, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of White House Intergovernmental Affairs