



April 17, 2018

VIA EMAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. Brent Goodrum
Director, Division of Mining, Land, and Water
Department of Natural Resources
State of Alaska
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1070
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Brent.goodrum@alaska.gov

Dear Director Goodrum:

We are again writing in regard to a simple request for information made by borough staff several weeks ago to inform our municipal land selections. We need further communication because your division informed us that it had provided inaccurate information (maps supposedly showing lands eligible and not eligible for us to select) in our land selection process.

Our request for accurate maps from DNR has been turned down by the municipal entitlement section. The reason given is because there is "no statutory requirement for DNR to certify the entitlement, and thus no requirement to identify VUU lands for purposes of calculating [our land] entitlement (Email from N. Brudie, 4/11/18)."

We are surprised to learn that DNR will only provide information to us that it has made an error on its maps but will not provide corrected ones for the community and residents of Petersburg to consider. DNR has stated that it will not provide corrected maps because the law does not require it to do so. Regardless of whether DNR is statutorily required to provide accurate land selection maps, certainly if it has enough information to tell us the maps it provided earlier are inaccurate, it has enough information to easily generate an accurate map. It is extremely discouraging and unfair to learn that DNR will not correct the inaccurate/incomplete information it previously provided to the municipality, so that DNR can waste its time, funding, and manpower adjudicating land that it has already said it cannot legally convey rather than provide accurate information to our municipality. Neither I nor the citizens of Petersburg believe this behavior serves the public interest.

Recognizing that anyone can have an occasional lapse in judgement, we are resubmitting our request to you for accurate maps we can rely on to make our land selections. (enclosed letter dated March 19, 2018). It is our sincere hope that we can resolve this matter and move forward with our land selection process which is so critical to the future of Petersburg.

Borough Administration
PO Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833 – Phone (907) 772-4425 Fax (907) 772-3759
www.petersburgak.gov

In order to improve communication and reestablish a good working relationship, once we have accurate maps from DNR, we request an opportunity to meet with you and relevant staff in Juneau to discuss the land selection process and clarify roles and responsibilities.

If you have any additional questions, please contact our Borough Manager, Stephen Giesbrecht, or our designated Municipal Land Selection Agent, Liz Cabrera at 772-4425.

Sincerely,

Mark Jensen
Mayor

cc: Andy Mack, Commissioner, AK Department of Natural Resources
Honorable Governor Bill Walker