



**File Code:** 2810  
**Date:** June 25, 2019

Dear Interested Party:

I am inviting your input on Northern Cobalt Limited's proposal for surface exploration drilling in Snettisham, Alaska. The Tongass National Forest is analyzing the proposal under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This activity falls within a category of actions established by the Chief of the Forest Service which normally do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of human environment and, therefore may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. Specifically, this decision may be categorically excluded under 36 CFR 220.6(e)(8), short-term (1-year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigation and their incidental support activities.

The Proposed exploration activities for 2019 include diamond core drilling at three (3) locations, and geochemical sampling. Approximately 10 trees will be cut for the proposed sites. The total land disturbance will be approximately 0.77 acres. All activities are located in the Taku-Snettisham Inventoried Roadless Area 302. No roads will be constructed during this activity. Surface activities will commence as early as mid-summer of 2019 and continue for up to one year (2020).

The 2019 Northern Cobalt Limited Snettisham Vanadium Project's Plan of Operations and other information, including maps for the drilling sites, are available for review at the Juneau Ranger District office or on the Tongass National Forest website at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56061>

The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide meaningful input on a proposed action implementing a land and resource management plan prior to a decision by the Responsible Official. In order to be most useful your comments should be provided by July 26, 2019 so we can incorporate them into the Decision Memo. Comments may be sent to: [comments-alaska-tongass-juneau@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-alaska-tongass-juneau@fs.fed.us) and written comments may be sent to:

Richard Dudek  
Juneau Ranger District  
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[richarddudek@fs.fed.us](mailto:richarddudek@fs.fed.us)  
Phone: 907-789-6275



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Orr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

BRAD ORR  
District Ranger

cc: Kris Rutledge