

## Status of the SEIS Process

Because the proposed project has the potential to cause significant impacts to the environment, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined in 2006 that a SEIS would be prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA. At that time, the EPA assumed the role of lead federal agency for the SEIS process and entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PRC that defined the terms of cooperation between PRC and the EPA in the development of the SEIS. Pursuant to that MOU, EPA selected ENSR (now AECOM), a third-party contractor, to assist with the preparation of the SEIS and related documents. Other federal and state regulatory agencies entered into agreements with the EPA to serve as cooperating or consulting agencies.

On October 31, 2008, EPA Region 10 approved the application by the State of Alaska to administer and enforce an Alaska version of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. With transfer of this responsibility to the State of Alaska, EPA no longer held a direct permitting responsibility related to the proposed Chuitna Coal Project. The USACE, with responsibility for Clean Water Act Section 10 and Section 404 permitting in relation to the proposed project, became the remaining federal agency with a major permitting action. Effective October 31, 2010, the USACE assumed the role of lead agency for preparation of the SEIS required for the proposed project. Cooperating and consulting agencies and most agency personnel assigned to the project remain largely unchanged. Cooperating agencies include the EPA, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the Native Village of Tyonek, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional agencies actively participating in the NEPA process include the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Current status of the SEIS process is outlined in the following chart:

## NEPA Process

