



COOK INLETKEEPER®

PROTECTING ALASKA'S COOK INLET WATERSHED AND THE LIFE IT SUSTAINS

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Dennis Gann, 929-9371, dennis@inletkeeper.org

Alaska Coal Workshop Series Kicks-Off With Goldman Prize Winner Judy Bonds

The United States has been labeled the “Saudi Arabia of Coal” in light of it’s prolific coal reserves, and Alaska possesses roughly half the nation’s coal. Now, there is a growing interest to develop Alaska’s vast coal resources for domestic use and foreign export. Coal, however, is the dirtiest traditional fuel source, and from mercury contamination and aggravated climate change, to water pollution and denuded fish and game habitat, the Alaska Coal Workshop Series will provide first-hand lessons why there is no such thing as “clean coal.”

As Alaska confronts an unprecedented energy crossroads, Alaskans must understand the impacts of coal production and use, as well as the established clean energy alternatives that will produce lasting jobs and flat-cost power. The proposed Chuitna coal strip mine on the west side of Cook Inlet will be the first project in Alaska history to mine directly through an active salmon stream. Chuitna coal would be destined for China and other Asian markets. When fully developed, this massive coal project would strip up to 30 square miles of fish, moose and bear habitat, and dump billions of gallons of mine waste each year into Cook Inlet fisheries. Permitting is expected to start this summer.

Aiding this discussion will be two speakers who have dealt with Appalachian coal issues for decades: **Julia “Judy” Bonds** is a coal miner’s daughter and the co-director of Coal River Mountain, and she has been fighting for social and environmental justice in Appalachian coalfields since 1998. In light of her tireless efforts, she won the “Noble Prize” for the environment – the Goldman Prize – in 2003. **Joe Lovett** is a Clean Water Act lawyer and the Executive Director of the Appalachian Center for the Economy & the Environment, and he has been a catalyst for focusing national attention on the devastation caused by mountaintop removal coal mining.

WHO: Cook Inletkeeper & UAA Office of Sustainability
Chuitna Citizens NO-COALition, ACE, ARM, and Sierra Club

WHAT: Alaska Coal Workshop Series.

WHY: Provide Alaskans With First-Hand Knowledge on Coal Extraction & Use

WHERE: UAA Campus, Rasmusen Hall, Room 101

WHEN: Friday May 8, 7:00 PM

MORE INFO: www.alaskacoal.org