

A Model of Cooperation

Red Dog is the worlds largest zinc mine, both in terms of in the ground reserves and annual zinc production. The mine is located in northwest Alaska, approximately 100 miles north of the Kotzebue and 50 miles inland from the Chukchi Sea, at the southern foothills of the Brooks Range. Red Dog is operated by Teck Cominco Alaska Incorporated (TCAK) under a unique operating agreement with the NANA Regional Corporation (NANA). NANA is an Inupiaq Eskimo owned corporation created in 1971 as part of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and they own the land. The operating agreement provides the framework for how the mine would be constructed and operated. TCAK financed the construction, is responsible for hiring, and is required to operate the mine and marketing its products. In addition, the Agreement required training and hiring of NANA's people, preservation of their culture and protection of the subsistence resources.