

# STATE OF ALASKA

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

**DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE  
CONTAMINATED SITES PROGRAM**

43335 K-Beach Road, Suite 11  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
PHONE: (907) 262-5210  
FAX: (907) 262-2294  
<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/>

File: 2332.26.002

August 31, 2007

Alaska Department of Corrections, Facilities  
ATTN: Charles Finch, Facilities Manager  
550 W. 7th Ave, Ste 601  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Spring Creek Correctional Facility USTs, ADEC Spill #1998230027801  
ADEC UST Facility ID #2557,  
Conditional Closure Determination

Dear Mr. Finch:

In 1998, two 2,200-gallon underground storage tanks (USTs) were permanently closed at this facility by removal. Petroleum contamination soil was detected during the tank closure site assessment work. Some soil was excavated and stockpiled at the facility, and some was left in place under the former diesel and gasoline dispensers. In 2005 and 2006, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Contaminated Sites Program (ADEC), hired a contractor to perform assessment of contaminated soil that had been stockpiled onsite, and to oversee the proper disposal of these contaminated soils. The contractor also installed two groundwater monitoring wells near these former UST systems to assess current subsurface soil and groundwater conditions. In 2007, ADEC's contractor oversaw the proper decommissioning of the two groundwater test wells associated with these former USTs. Based upon the completion of this work and our review of ADEC's administrative file for this site, we have determined that hazardous substance contamination to the soil remains at the location of the former dispensers, but that it does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Please note that this determination is subject to site specific conditions which must be complied with in order to validate this conditional closure decision.

This letter summarizes the information considered in making this decision regarding the environmental status of this site.

## **Introduction**

### Site name and location:

Spring Creek Correctional Facility USTs at the Spring Creek Correctional Center in Seward, Alaska

Legal Description:

SW0840012, Section 18, T1S, R1E, Spring Creek Correctional Facility  
Kenai Peninsula Borough Parcel Number 14532008, consisting of 262 acres.

Regulatory authority under which the site is being cleaned up:

This project was reviewed under the applicable regulatory authority in 18 AAC 75, Article 3, as amended through October 16, 2005, and 18 AAC 78, Articles 2 and 6, as amended through January 30, 2003.

Name and mailing address of current facility manager:

Alaska Department of Corrections  
Charles Finch, Facilities Manager  
550 W. 7th Ave, Ste 601  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Land Owner:

City of Seward  
PO Box 167  
Seward, AK 99664-0167

**Background**

The Spring Creek Correctional Center (SCCC) is a maximum security prison constructed on 262 acres of land located east of Seward, Alaska across Resurrection Bay. Access to the facility is via Nash Road which connects with the Seward Highway near the northern edge of Seward. The facility is located between the Chugach Mountains (to the east) and Resurrection Bay (to the west). Fourth of July Creek is located south of the facility and flows in a southwesterly direction from the Chugach Mountains to Resurrection Bay.

In 1998, two 2,200-gallon USTs and associated dispensers were permanently closed by excavation and removal. One UST contained diesel and one contained gasoline used for fleet vehicle fueling. These USTs were located near the maintenance building, outside the secure perimeter of the SCCC facility, at the eastern edge of the facility. Inmates do not have access to this area of the facility.

At the time of tank removals, approximately 25 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed from the tank excavation pits and stockpiled onsite. Diesel range organics (DRO) contaminated soil was detected in soils left remaining in-place directly beneath the diesel and gasoline dispensers. DRO was detected at 44,000 mg/kg beneath the diesel dispenser and at 440 mg/kg beneath the gasoline dispenser. No further efforts were taken to remove additional contaminated soil.

In 2005 and 2006, the stockpiled contaminated soil was assessed and properly disposed. In addition, two groundwater monitoring wells were installed downgradient of the former USTs in order to further assess the remaining soil contamination, and to determine if groundwater had been impacted. No soil contamination was detected during the drilling and installation of the

monitoring wells. Groundwater never entered the two groundwater monitoring well screens; therefore no groundwater samples were able to be collected from the wells. Both monitoring wells were decommissioned in May, 2007.

Petroleum contaminated soil remains in place at the location of the former diesel and gasoline dispensers. Above-ground fuel tanks and dispensers have been installed, and are currently present, at the location of these former UST dispensers. The above-ground fuel tank systems currently prevent the assessment and cleanup of the remaining soil contamination. Based on the soil assessment work completed in 2005/2006, the magnitude and extent of the DRO contamination associated with the former dispensers appears to be limited.

Two water supply wells that provide water to the SCCC are located approximately 1000 feet up and cross-gradient from this release site, and are not at risk from this residual DRO contaminated soil.

### **Contaminants of Concern**

The potential contaminants of concern at this site are constituents of diesel fuel and include:

- Benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes (BTEX)
- Diesel range organics (DRO)

DRO has been the only contaminant of concern detected in soil at concentrations exceeding applicable ADEC cleanup levels. The highest concentration of DRO detected in soil remaining under the former diesel dispenser in 1998 was 44,000 mg/kg.

### **Pathway Evaluation**

The human exposure pathways evaluated include: indoor and outdoor inhalation of vapors, ingestion of soil and water, and dermal contact. The migration pathways considered include: migration to groundwater and/or surface water, and migration to indoor air.

The concentration of DRO remaining soil in 1998 exceeded ADEC ingestion, inhalation, and 'migration to groundwater' soil cleanup levels. The quantity of DRO impacted soil remaining at this site has not been determined, but is thought to be limited because soil contamination was not detected during the drilling and installation of the two nearby groundwater monitoring wells in 2005. The ground surface is covered with asphalt pavement, and an above-ground fuel storage tank system is currently installed over the location of the former UST fuel dispenser island.

Ingestion, dermal contact, and outdoor inhalation exposures are temporarily controlled and prevented with the asphalt pavement covering the ground surface.

The migration to groundwater pathway may or may not be complete. The effort to collect groundwater quality samples was unsuccessful because the two monitoring wells installed by ADEC's contractor never developed and produced any water samples. Drinking water for the facility is supplied from two water supply wells located approximately 1000 feet up and cross-gradient from this site. The groundwater at the location of the residual DRO contaminated soil is not used for drinking water.

The surface water migration and exposure pathway are considered incomplete, since no surface water contamination has been noted or identified. Ecological receptors are present on the property, but they have not been impacted.

Lastly, the DRO contamination remaining in soil at the site isn't expected to pose unacceptable risks to indoor air quality because of the relatively low vapor pressure and volatility of DRO constituents, and the low concentration of benzene present in diesel fuel. The residual soil contamination is located a distance of more than 30 feet from the nearest building.

### **Cleanup Levels**

The soil cleanup levels established for this site are the 18 AAC 75.341 (Tables B1 and B2) levels for 'Migration to Groundwater' (over 40 inch zone).

### **ADEC Decision**

ADEC has determined that additional remediation of this release is not necessary at this time.

Residual soil contamination remains at the location of the former UST fuel dispensers; however, with appropriate controls and restrictions, it should not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, no further remedial action is required at this time and this site is approved for conditional closure, subject to the following conditions:

1. Should future excavation work be planned at this release site, or should site work expose residual soil contamination, the Alaska Department of Corrections must contact ADEC and additional site assessment and/or remedial activities may be required and undertaken at that time.
2. Should the existing above-ground fuel storage tank systems be removed or relocated, the Alaska Department of Corrections must contact and inform the ADEC of this fact. Additional release investigation work will be scheduled in order to determine the horizontal and vertical extent of petroleum contamination remaining at the former UST dispenser island. Additional cleanup work may be necessary, depending on the extent and concentration of any residual contamination detected at that time.

Failure to comply with these conditions could invalidate this decision.

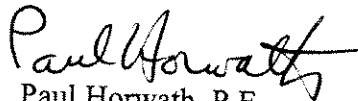
In accordance with 18 AAC 78.276(f)(2), ADEC may require additional site assessment, monitoring, remediation, and/or other necessary actions at this facility should new information become available that indicates contamination at this site may pose a threat to human health or the environment.

This status of this site will be noted as "Conditional Closure" on the ADEC database. An institutional control will be established on the ADEC database to document residual soil contamination remaining on site above the 18 AAC 75.341 soil ingestion, inhalation, and 'migration to groundwater' cleanup levels. Site closure (without conditions) will be considered when soil samples confirm that soil meets the established ADEC soil cleanup levels for this site.

Any person who disagrees with this decision may request an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 18 AAC 15.195 - 18 AAC 15.340 or an informal review by the Division Director in accordance with 18 AAC 15.185. Informal review requests must be delivered to the Division Director, 410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303, Juneau, Alaska 99801, within 15 days after receiving the department's decision reviewable under this section. Adjudicatory hearing requests must be delivered to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, 410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303, Juneau, Alaska 99801, within 30 days after the date of issuance of this letter, or within 30 days after the department issues a final decision under 18 AAC 15.185. If a hearing is not requested within 30 days, the right to appeal is waived.

If you have questions or concerns about this decision, or any of the attached conditions, please contact me at (907) 262-5210, extension #250.

Sincerely,

  
Paul Horwath, P.E.  
Environmental Engineer

C: Spring Creek Correctional Center  
Attn: Craig Turnbull, Superintendent  
P.O. Box 2109  
Seward, AK 99644-2109

Spring Creek Correctional Center  
Attn: Jolund Luther, Admin Manager  
P.O. Box 2109  
Seward, AK 99664-2109

Phillip Oates, City Manager  
City of Seward  
Administration  
410 Adams St.  
Seward, AK 99664

Pdh.Spring Creek Correctional Facility USTs Conditional Closure\_8-31-07

