

STATE OF ALASKA

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

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

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File: 2332.38.016

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 Center, Seward, Alaska
Spring Creek Generator Building, ADEC Spill #1995230130801
Conditional Closure Determination

Dear Mr. Finch:

In 2005 and 2006, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Contaminated Sites Program (ADEC), hired a contractor to perform assessment of contaminated soil stockpiled at the above referenced facility, oversee the proper disposal of these contaminated soils, and conduct groundwater quality assessment work. In 2007, ADEC's contractor oversaw the proper decommissioning of all remaining groundwater test wells associated with the Generator Building diesel fuel spill. Based upon the completion of this work and upon review of our administrative file for this site, ADEC has determined that hazardous substance contamination to the soil may remain at the Generator Building site, but that it does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Please note that this determination is subject to a site specific condition 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 Generator Building 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.

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.

The generator building is located 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. In early November of 1995, an estimated 400 to 670 gallons of diesel fuel was released to the ground surface along the northwestern and western sides of the generator building. The source of fuel was a day tank located inside the generator building, and the release of fuel was caused by a faulty control mechanism in the diesel day tank.

Approximately 57 to 79 bank cubic yards of contaminated soil was excavated and stockpiled at the site containing an estimated 250 to 410 gallons of the spilled fuel. Petroleum contaminated soil remains in place at locations where soil was not excavated during the November, 1995 removal work, because of buried utilities and the building foundation. It is estimated that approximately 150 to 260 gallons of fuel wasn't removed and remained within an estimated 130 to 210 cubic yards of contaminated soil.

Groundwater at the generator building was encountered 26 to 28 feet below the ground surface in May of 1996; however the depth to groundwater at this site is reported to vary substantially with the season of the year and in conjunction with precipitation events. Groundwater flow direction is in the southwesterly direction at the nearby House #2 diesel spill site. 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 site. Three (3) groundwater monitoring wells were installed at this site and sampled to assess for impacts to groundwater quality. No diesel range organics (DRO) or BTEX constituents were detected in the water samples. Groundwater did not

appear to have been impacted at the site in 1996. Later efforts to sample these monitoring wells were unsuccessful because the groundwater level had dropped below the depth of the monitoring wells.

All three groundwater monitoring wells were decommissioned in May, 2007.

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 in the base of the cleanup excavation in 1995 was 11,100 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 residual concentration of DRO in soil did not exceed ADEC inhalation soil cleanup levels, so the soil should not pose an unacceptable outdoor air exposure risk.

The residual concentrations of DRO in soil did exceed ADEC ingestion and dermal contact soil cleanup levels at one sample location adjacent to the generator building foundation in September 1994. The majority of contaminated soil that could be accessed was excavated so that very little contaminated soil remained at the ground surface; however it is estimated that 130-210 cubic yards of DRO contaminated soil remain in place. This area of the prison is inaccessible to inmates. Only SCCC staff and SCCC authorized persons will access this site. Due to the existing utilities that prevented removal of these remaining contaminated soils, human exposure to these soils is likely to be of short-term duration and limited to utility/maintenance workers. The remote potential for human exposure combined with the expected short-term durations of exposure pose a low soil ingestion and dermal contact human health risk.

Petroleum was not detected in groundwater and the migration to groundwater pathway is believed to be incomplete.

The surface water migration and exposure pathway are considered incomplete, since no surface water contamination has been noted or identified. Although ecological receptors are present on the property, these ecological receptors 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 limited volatility of DRO constituents, and the low concentration of benzene present in diesel fuel.

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. The remaining contaminated soil met the ADEC soil cleanup levels for outdoor inhalation, but did exceed the soil cleanup levels for ingestion and dermal contact, and migration to groundwater, when sampled in 1994.

Residual soil contamination remains near the generator building and the adjacent buried and above ground utilities. 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 condition:

1. Should future excavation work be planned at this release site, or should site work expose residual soil or groundwater 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.

Failure to comply with this condition could invalidate this decision.

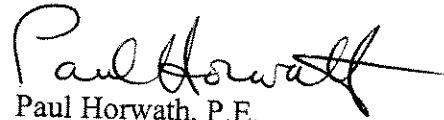
In accordance with 18 AAC 75.380(d)(2), ADEC may require additional site assessment, monitoring, remediation, and/or other necessary actions at this facility should new information become available that indicates contamination at this site may pose a threat to human health or the environment.

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' 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 the attached condition, 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

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