

# STATE OF ALASKA

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

**SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR**

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File: # 1525.38.012

March 17, 2010

Mr. Michael Harmon  
Public Works Director  
City and Borough of Sitka  
100 Lincoln St.  
Sitka, AK. 99835

Re: Decision Document; Sitka High School Heating Oil Tank  
Cleanup Complete Determination

Dear Mr. Harmon:

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Contaminated Sites Program (ADEC) has completed a review of the environmental records associated with the Sitka High School Heating Oil Tank, located in Sitka, Alaska. Based on the information provided to date, it has been determined that the contaminant concentrations remaining on site do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment and this site will be closed.

This decision is based on the administrative record for the Sitka High School Heating Oil Tank, which is located in the offices of the ADEC in Anchorage, Alaska. This letter summarizes the decision process used to determine the environmental status of this site and provides a summary of the regulatory issues considered in the Cleanup Complete determination.

## **Introduction**

### Site Name and Location

Sitka High School Heating Oil Tank  
1000 Lake Street  
Sitka, Alaska 99835

### Name and Mailing Address of Contact Party:

Mr. Michael Harmon  
Public Works Director  
City and Borough of Sitka  
100 Lincoln St.  
Sitka, AK. 99835

### ADEC Site Identifiers:

Hazard ID #3127  
CS file # 1525.38.012

Regulatory authority under which the site is being cleaned up:

18 AAC 75 and 18 AAC 78

**Background**

A 5,500-gallon, dual purpose, underground heating oil tank (HOT) was excavated from the site in 1999. In 1993, piping was added to supply fuel to the school's emergency generator, resulting in the dual-purpose designation.

**Contaminants of Concern**

During the investigation at this site, soil samples were analyzed for diesel range organics (DRO). Based on the results of these investigations, the following contaminant of concern was identified:

- DRO

**Cleanup Levels**

The default soil cleanup levels for this site are established in 18 AAC 75.341, Method Two, Table B2, Under 40 Inch Zone, Migration to Groundwater.

<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>Site Cleanup Level (mg/kg)</u>
• DRO	250

**Site Characterization and Cleanup**

Petroleum contamination was not evident when the tank was removed from the ground and groundwater was not encountered. Confirmation soil samples collected from the bottom and sides of the excavation contained DRO up to 892 mg/kg. Excavated soil was disposed of at the Borough landfill and the excavation was backfilled with clean fill.

**Pathway Evaluation**

Following investigation and cleanup at the site, human health exposure to the remaining contaminants in soil was evaluated using ADEC's Exposure Tracking Model. The human health exposure pathways that were evaluated for this decision document included: inhalation of indoor and outdoor air; ingestion of soil; dermal contact with soil; and ingestion of surface water. A summary of this pathway evaluation is included in Table 1.

**Table 1 – Exposure Pathway Evaluation**

<b>Pathway</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Surface Soil Contact	Pathway Incomplete	Contaminated soil is not located at the surface.
Sub-Surface Soil Contact	De Minimis exposure	Contamination remains in the subsurface, but is below direct contact cleanup levels.
Inhalation – Outdoor Air	De Minimis exposure	Contamination remaining in the subsurface is below inhalation cleanup levels and has been covered with clean fill.
Inhalation – Indoor Air (vapor intrusion)	Pathway Incomplete	Contamination remaining in the subsurface is below inhalation cleanup levels, is not

		considered volatile, and has been covered with clean fill.
Groundwater Ingestion	Pathway Incomplete	Groundwater was not encountered during the investigations. Groundwater is not utilized as a drinking water source in this area.
Surface Water Ingestion	Pathway Incomplete	There is no surface water located within ¼ mile of the site
Wild Foods Ingestion	Pathway Incomplete	Wild foods are not collected in this area
Exposure to Ecological Receptors	Pathway Incomplete	Ecological receptors are not present that could be affected by the remaining contamination.

Notes to Table 1: "De-minimis exposure" means that in ADEC's judgment receptors are unlikely to be affected by the minimal volume of remaining contamination. "Pathway incomplete" means that in ADEC's judgment contamination has no potential to contact receptors. "Exposure controlled" means there is an administrative mechanism in place limiting land or groundwater use, or a physical barrier in place that deters contact with residual contamination.

#### **ADEC Decision**

The cleanup actions to date have served to excavate and adequately remove contaminated soil from the site. Based on the information available, ADEC has determined no further assessment or cleanup action is required. There is no longer an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment, and this site will be designated as closed on the Department's database.

Although a Cleanup Complete determination has been granted, ADEC approval is required for off-site soil disposal in accordance with 18 AAC 75.325(i). It should be noted that movement or use of potentially contaminated soil in a manner that results in a violation of 18 AAC 70 water quality standards is unlawful.

This determination is in accordance with 18 AAC 75.380(d) and does not preclude ADEC from requiring additional assessment and/or cleanup action if future information indicates that this site may pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

#### **Appeal**

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 about this closure decision, please contact ADEC Project Manager William O'Connell at (907) 269-3057.

Approved by;

 *for*

Linda Nuechterlein  
Environmental Manager

Recommended by;



William O'Connell  
Environmental Program Specialist

CC: Steve Bradshaw, Sitka School District