



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Environmental  
**Conservation**  
SPILL PREVENTION & RESPONSE  
Contaminated Sites Program

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File: 240.38.010

4 April 2019

Kristin Hess  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Mining Land and Water Management  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1070  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**Re: ADOT&PF Glenn Highway Maintenance Camp, Mile 185 Glenn Highway  
Hazard ID: 3347**

**\*\* STATE OF ALASKA NOTIFICATION – HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE LIABILITY\*\***

Dear Ms. Hess:

This notification letter is to advise you of your agency's liability for the contamination identified at the ADOT&PF Glenn Highway Maintenance Camp site located at mile 185 Glenn Highway, near Glenn Allen, Alaska. Alaska Statute (AS) Title 46 authorizes the State to respond to this pollution incident and to take appropriate action to minimize potential damage to human health, safety or welfare or to the environment. Under Title 46, any Responsible Party may be held financially responsible for any actions taken by the State.

AS 46.03.822 (Strict Liability for the Release of Hazardous Substances) establishes who is financially responsible or liable for the investigation and cleanup of any release or threatened release of a hazardous substance. State records indicate that you meet one or more of the following criteria:

- owned or controlled the hazardous substance at the time of its release;
- own(ed) or operate(d) the property or facility from which the release occurred;
- own or operate the property at which the hazardous substance came to be located; or
- arranged for transport, disposal or treatment of hazardous substances that were released.

Site History and Background

The project site is part of the former ADOT&PF Glenn Highway Maintenance Station and the existing ADF&G Facility located on either side of the Glenn Highway near Mile Post 185 in

Glennallen, Alaska. Based on records provided by the DNR, 160 acres that includes the Property were withdrawn and reserved for use by the Alaska Road Commission (ARC) by President Roosevelt on January 21, 1942. Funding to begin construction of the Palmer-Richardson Highway (the current Glenn Highway) was appropriated in 1941, and 160 acres of undeveloped land was specifically reserved for use as a supply base and repair shop for the construction and maintenance of the Glenn Highway. The ARC moved their regional headquarters from Chitina to the new reserve, and some buildings were likely moved from Chitina to the Property.

Ownership of the majority of the Property was officially transferred to the State on June 30, 1959 with a quitclaim deed under the Alaska Omnibus Act. Approximately 158 acres were transferred to the State, and became known as Other State Land (OSL) 131. The 1.89 acres of land south of the highway were apparently set aside sometime between 1942 and 1959 for the Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service. The 1.89 acres were conveyed to the State of Alaska on June 23, 1960, and the parcel is recorded as OSL 30.

The Property is currently managed by the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR started adjudicating authorizations for the Property in 1971. The DNR records for OSL 131 show twelve Alaska Division of Land transactions between 1962 and 1999 that include two public utility easements, three inter-agency land management transfers (ILMTs), two special land use permits, two inter-agency land management agreements (ILMAs), two public & charitable leases, and one sublease. Seven of these ADLs appear to fall within the assessment area of the Property, including those allowing use of the Service Station and open area to the east of the Garage by the Glennallen Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD), the use of the Garage by the Copper River School District (CRSD), and the use of the Warm Storage building by the ADF&G.

As of a 2010 reporting, four buildings were being used on the former ADOT&PF facility north of the Glenn Highway. The Glennallen Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) used a former Service Station for emergency vehicle and equipment storage. A water well and holding tank were located in the Boiler House and used to supply water for fire suppression. An open area to the east of the Garage was also available for fire training use by the GVFD. The former ADOT&PF Garage was used by the CRSD. In 1976/1977, the former garage was renovated as a vocational facility for mechanical and welding trades. The renovation included class rooms, restroom and shower facilities, and a new sewage system. Use as an educational facility was likely discontinued in the early 1990's. The CRSD then used the facility for storage and light school bus maintenance, and the water and sewer systems were not maintained. The former Warm Storage building has been used by the ADF&G for cold storage, but use of the building has declined as the structure degrades.

Subsequent investigation occurred through 2013 to include advancement of monitoring wells, and soil excavation. It is DEC's understanding that site use has changed from that in 2010. DNR initially approached DEC about assessment services when the community was interested in the property for a new building to serve the community.

The ADOT&PF Glenn Highway Maintenance Camp site was added to the ADEC Contaminated Sites Program database in 2002, which is accessible on-line at the following URL:  
<https://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/SPAR/PublicMVC/CSP/SiteReport/3347>

### Cost Recovery for State Oversight

AS 46.04.010 (Reimbursement for Cleanup Expenses) and 46.08.070 (Reimbursement for Containment and Cleanup) require that the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) seek recovery of certain costs, including oversight activities, incurred by the State in responding to the release or threatened release of hazardous substances. Billable oversight expenditures include the direct cost of staff time plus indirect State overhead costs, and could include travel and contractual costs. Billable staff time includes all time spent on activities related to the incident, including site inspections, response and report reviews, correspondence, telephone conversations, meetings, and legal services.

### Potential for Future State Action

If you are taking adequate actions to clean up this site, ADEC's involvement in those cleanup efforts will be limited to approving characterization and cleanup plans and reports, monitoring the progress of cleanup activities, and providing guidance as necessary. However, if response actions by the Responsible Party are not satisfactory, ADEC may assume the lead role in the investigation and cleanup efforts. In the event that ADEC assumes the lead role, you may be held financially liable for any response actions taken by the State. Failure to reimburse the State for billable oversight and response actions incurred by the State to address contamination at this site may result in the filing of liens against property you own, pursuant to AS 46.08.075.

You will be receiving a separate letter requesting specific actions to conduct necessary site characterization or cleanup activities. If you have specific questions regarding the investigation and cleanup of this site or if you believe someone else may be responsible for this pollution incident, you can reach me at 451-2166 or via email at [john.carnahan@alaska.gov](mailto:john.carnahan@alaska.gov).

If you have questions about your liability under Alaska Statute, or you have questions about cost recovery and the billing process, please contact DEC's Cost Recovery Unit by phone at (907) 465-5250 or by email at [dec.spar.cr@alaska.gov](mailto:dec.spar.cr@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

John Carnahan  
Project Manager  
ADEC Contaminated Sites Program

cc: SPAR Cost Recovery Unit, via email [dec.spar.cr@alaska.gov](mailto:dec.spar.cr@alaska.gov)  
Patty Burns, DNR