

# STATE OF ALASKA

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

**SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR**

555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
PHONE: (907) 269-3057  
FAX: (907) 269-7649  
www.dec.state.ak.us

Certified Return Receipt  
7002 2410 0005 3103 7340

December 5, 2008

Ms. Meera Kohler  
Alaska Village Electrical Cooperative  
4831 Eagle St.  
Anchorage, AK. 99503

Re: Meeting follow up

Dear Ms. Kohler:

Grant Lidren and I would like to thank you and Mark Teitzel for meeting with us yesterday to discuss the contaminated sites for which Alaska Village Electrical Cooperative (AVEC) is the responsible party. Currently there are seven active-status sites on our database:

<u>Site Name</u>	<u>ADEC File Number</u>
Minto (AVEC) Facility	770.38.001
Anvik Former AVEC Tank Farm	2405.38.001
Grayling AVEC Powerhouse TF	2416.38.005
Old Harbor Former AVEC	2626.38.002
Kiana AVEC Former Tank Farm	460.38.004
Old AVEC Tank Farm, Lower Kalskag	2427.57.001
City of Ambler Clinic	470.38.001

As a non-profit cooperative, we discussed how AVEC does not have access to funds typically available to commercial, for-profit enterprises and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) intends to work with AVEC whenever possible to reduce the costs associated with investigation and/or cleanup. However (ADEC) expects AVEC to make every possible effort to address the contaminated sites where they are a responsible party.

During the meeting, we discussed some of the potential ways that AVEC, in coordination with the ADEC and other entities, could take advantage of the economy of scale in addressing contaminated sites in the villages. I intend to contact you in the near future with additional details on this process and hope that I can count on your cooperation in this effort to address potential threats to human health and the environment.

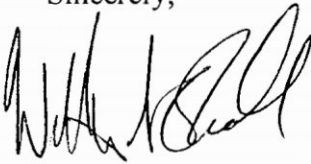
The responsibility for the investigation and cleanup of hazardous substance contamination is established by state law. The owner and/or operator that caused the release of the hazardous substance(s) are responsible for its cleanup (Alaska Statutes 46.03.822). However, if the

responsible party is not the owner of the property and/or is not willing or able to conduct the necessary cleanup actions, the landowner is liable for the cost of the cleanup actions. If you believe that another party is responsible for the contamination (e.g., a past owner or operator of the site), please provide this information to the ADEC Project Manager assigned to your site. It is best to identify and work with all potentially responsible parties from the beginning of the cleanup process so everyone understands their responsibilities.

In addition, state law requires ADEC to recover the costs associated with our oversight work from the responsible party/parties (AS 46.03.010 and AS 46.08.070). This may include conducting site inspections and any time associated with reviewing workplans. The contaminated site cleanup process can be a lengthy and costly endeavor. However, ADEC wishes to limit your costs by working with you to accomplish the primary goal of protecting public health and the environment. In general, the quicker that this environmental concern is resolved, the lower the cleanup costs.

I would like to thank you again for meeting with us and I look forward to working with you in the future. Please feel free to contact me at 269-3057 if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss these sites further.

Sincerely,



Bill O'Connell  
Environmental Program Specialist



Grant Lidren  
Environmental Program Specialist

CC: Mark Teitzel, AVEC

## Wanstall, Bruce

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**Subject:** City of Ambler Clinic  
**Status:** Waiting on someone else  
**Percent Complete:** 0%  
**Total Work:** 0 hours  
**Actual Work:** 0 hours  
**Owner:** Wanstall, Bruce  
**Categories:** SI Ticker

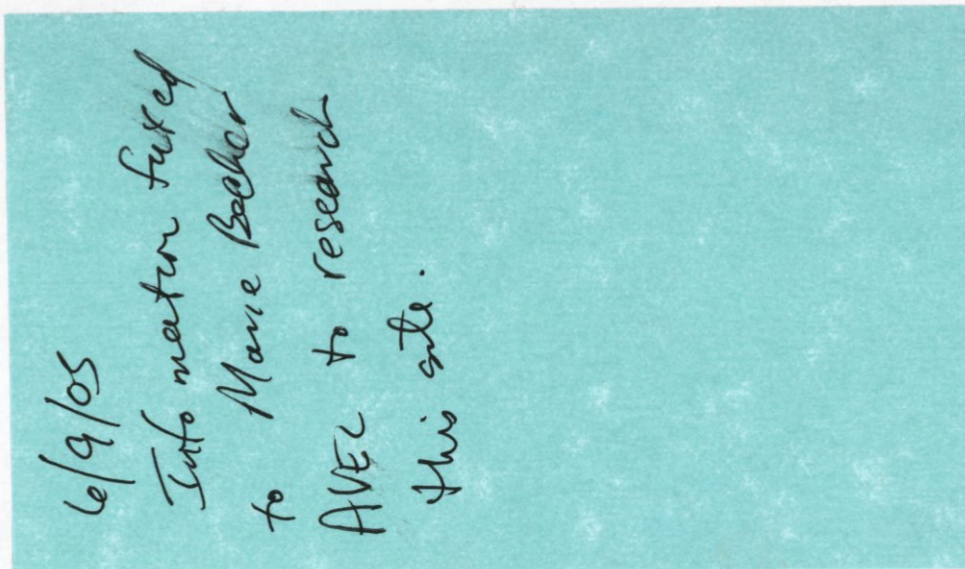
Received file transfer from PERP 10/12/01.

Fumes from petroleum contaminated soil affecting workers in the building. Source of release considered to be a historical heating oil spill in 1986 from the AVEC pipeline on the SW side of the clinic.

Phone call (10/25/01) contact with Ambler city Administrator Clara Williams (445-2122): Clara stated that the new clinic foundation would begin next May; eventual fate of old clinic is still uncertain but structure has been condemned for reasons other than the petroleum soil and odors. Staff (me) stated that when the building is moved AVEC can then finish the corrective action cleanup of the soils from the 1986 spill. Staff volunteered that the site is now listed on the ADEC/SPAR Contaminated Sites database, and that a Project Manager will assist in the planning of the cleanup of the site this winter.

Phone contact (10/31/01) with Marie Becker 561-7972, environmental coordinator at AVEC to introduce her to the (historical) site, helped her locate our website and the VCP guidance document to begin planning for the soil cleanup will need to follow probable demolition of the old Clinic. I faxed her a copy of the Site Intake file; Marie did mention that she will be coordinating a number of similar small cleanups that AVEC will need to address at their facilities and that the VCP vehicle will be a great help.

Change to Inactive database status 1/29/02



6/9/05  
Info memo faxed  
to Marie Becker  
AVEC to research  
this site.

City of Ambler  
P.O. Box 09  
Ambler, AK 99786  
(907) 445-2122/(907) 445-2174

August 29, 2001  
RE: Phone Conversation, 28 August 2001

Mr. Dickson  
Environmental Protection Agency  
FAX (907) 451-3262

Dear Mr. Dickson,

I had our AVEC operator check the area around the power plant and tank farm for possible fuel leaks; he found none. He also said he does this daily. One of our workers and myself, checked around the clinic building. Neither of us found any leaks or odor around the tank connected to the clinic.

The AVEC operator and Water and Sewer operator informed me that there had been a spill of fuel (stove oil/diesel fuel) from the AVEC pipeline on the southwest side of the clinic back in 1986. AVEC did come in and remove the contaminated soil and replaced it with clean soil, but the fuel ran under the clinic and they were not able to get under the building to deal with the problem. The threaded pipe was then replaced with welded pipe. Apparently the threaded pipe was in 20' sections and the spill originated from there. I know that people have been complaining about the smell of fuel oil around the clinic for years, especially on hot summer days. Health aids complain of headaches from the smell.

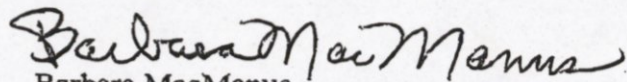
We are scheduled to have a new clinic built next summer 2002. We haven't determined what to do with the old building. It has been condemned for reasons other than and including the fuel fumes.

I have directed our heavy equipment operator to remove the contaminated soil from the excavated water/sewer worksite and replace it with fresh soil.

I have included some reports from our village annual AVEC meetings with resolutions addressing concern over the smell of fuel coming from the ground. Also enclosed are two maps of the spill area. The AVEC map is an old one and the route of the pipeline may have changed.

I will continue to gather information concerning this situation. Let us know what we should be doing. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

  
Barbara MacManus  
Mayor

**Official Minutes**  
**Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
**Ambler, AK 99786**

The Annual Village Meeting of the members of Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. was called to order at 6:03 a.m/p.m. on the 3rd day of February, 1998, by Chairperson Barbara MacManus. In attendance were 40 AVEC members, which constitutes a quorum.

The following items of business were transacted:

1. Karen Douglas was elected for a term of two years as Delegate representing the community members at the Annual Cooperative Meeting. Phone no. 445-2120 Member no. 10776  
Address P.O. Box 23 Ambler AK 99786
2. Ada Cleveland was elected for a term of one year as First Alternate Delegate to the Annual Cooperative Meeting. Phone no. none Member no. 8912  
Address P.O. Box 96 Ambler AK 99786
3. Bobbie Tickett was elected for a term of one year as Second Alternate Delegate to the Annual Cooperative Meeting. Phone no. 445-2211 Member no. 3916  
Address P.O. Box 65 Ambler AK 99786
4. Barbara MacManus was elected Chairman for next years Annual Village Meeting. Phone no. 445-2161 Member no. 3907 Address P.O. Box 68 Ambler AK 99786
5. Lydia Douglas was elected Secretary for next years Annual Village Meeting. Phone no. 445-3131 Member no. 3892 Address P.O. Box 70 Ambler AK 99786
6. The following resolutions were adopted by the members as instructions to the Delegates for presentation at the Annual Cooperative Meeting.
  - A. Resolved: for the safety of vehicle operators, reflective material should be placed on poles along the road way.
  - B. Resolved: that pedestal warning flags be placed on pedestals in the open places, to warn the snow machine operators.
  - C. Resolved: that as the wires be moved from utility poles to overhead on poles that street lights be added specifically to south end of old airport
  - D. Resolved: There are dark places around our town and the city needs to work with AVEC to review the lighting needs

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 a.m/p.m.

Lydia Douglas  
Secretary, AVEC Annual Village Meeting

Approved: Barbara MacManus  
Chairman, AVEC Annual Village Meeting

E. Resolved that PCE task force have representation which includes members from rural regions.

\* F. Resolved that the oil spill by and under the clinic is still causing problem from the smell, it needs to be cleaned up and clinic be moved.

(94-95) Barbara

Village copy - keep for files

Official Minutes  
Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Ambler, Alaska 99786.

The Annual Village meeting of members of the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. was called to order at 5:12 a.m./p.m. on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of Dec., 1994, by Chairperson Barbara Mac Manus. In attendance were 36 AVEC members, which constitutes a quorum.

The following items of business were transacted:

1. Walter Gray was elected (has another year) for a term of two years as Delegate representing the community members at the Annual Cooperative Meeting. Phone no. 445-2143  
Address Box 53 Ambler AK 99786.

1a. \_\_\_\_\_ was elected for a term or two years as Delegate representing the Community members at the Annual Cooperative Meeting. (This additional Delegate applies ONLY to communities with over 100 names on the attached membership list.) Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_.

2. John Kelly was elected for a term of one year as First Alternate Delegate to the Annual Cooperative Meeting. Phone no. 445-2124 Address Box 92 Ambler AK 99786.

3. Lydia Douglas was elected for a term of one year as Second Alternate Delegate to the Annual Cooperative Meeting. Phone no. 445-2131 Address Box 70 Ambler, AK 99786

4. Barbara Mac Manus was elected Chairman for next year's Annual Village Meeting. Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_ Address Box 68 Ambler, AK 99786  
445-2161

5. Lydia Douglas was elected Secretary for next year's Annual Village Meeting. Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_ Address Box 70 Ambler, AK 99786  
445-2131

6. The following resolutions were adopted by the members as instructions to the Delegate for presentation at the Annual Cooperative Meeting:

A. Resolved The AVEC tanks needs to be leveled, the dikes brought up to state fire and coast guard codes. The pipes from the river to the tanks need to be checked to see that it meets the code, and be installed properly.

\* B. Resolved That a qualified AVEC representative be sent to check area where fishes are coming from the ground approx. 3 ft. NW from the AVEC plant, 6 ft deep pipes discovered when installing AVEC poles in summer '92.

C. Resolved That Isaac & Lydia Douglas paid for several entrance kits and there is none available in Ambler inventory. We feel that there should be 10 service entrance kits in Ambler. In order to service Ambler growing community.

D. Resolved There are no working street lights in Ambler, and the city is being charge electricity for nonworking lights. We want the city and AVEC to work this problem, so we can have the lights back again.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 a.m./p.m.

Lydia Douglas  
Secretary, AVEC Annual Village Meeting

Approved: Barbara Mac Manus  
Chairman, AVEC Annual Village Meeting

( '93-'94 )

Village Copy -- KEEP for files

Official Minutes  
Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Ambler, Alaska 99786.

The Annual Village meeting of members of the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. was called to order at 5:06 a.m/p.m. on the 11 day of Jan, 1994, by Chairperson Barbara MacManus attendance were 32 AVEC members, which constitutes a quorum.

The following items of business were transacted:

1. Walter Grisy was elected (has another year) for a term of two years as Delegate representing the community members at the Annual Cooperative Meeting. Phone no. 445-2143  
Address Box 53 Ambler 99786.

1a. \_\_\_\_\_ was elected for a term or two years as Delegate representing the Community members at the Annual Cooperative Meeting. (This additional Delegate applies ONLY to communities with over 100 names on the attached membership list.) Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Wallace Cleveland was elected for a term of one year as First Alternate Delegate to the Annual Cooperative Meeting. Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_ Address Box 24 Ambler 99786

3. Barbara MacManus was elected for a term of one year as Second Alternate Delegate to the Annual Cooperative Meeting. Phone no. 445-2161 Address Box 65, Ambler 99786

4. Barbara MacManus was elected Chairman for next year's Annual Village Meeting. Phone no. 445-2161 Address Wintechill Box 68 Ambler AK 99786

5. Lydia Douglas was elected Secretary for next year's Annual Village Meeting. Phone no. 445-2131 Address Box 70 Ambler AK 99786

6. The following resolutions were adopted by the members as instructions to the Delegate for presentation at the Annual Cooperative Meeting:

A. Resolved that the dike around the AVEC fuel plant be restored to meet state fire and the Coast Guard codes.

\* B. Resolved that a qualified AVEC representative be sent to check area where fumes are coming from the ground approx 30ft NW from the AVEC plant 6-8ft deep. Fumes discovered when installing AVEC poles in Sum  
Resolved Nothing was done about it at the time.

\* C. Resolved that an oil spill in 1986 from the old pipeline coming from the river and within 10ft of clinic was buried at the time and not cleaned up. People can still smell the fumes, especially in the heat of summer. It needs to be cleaned up.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m/p.m.

Small the fumes, especially in the heat of summer. It needs to be cleaned up.

Mary Ann Douglas  
Secretary, AVEC Annual Village Meeting

Approved: Barbara MacManus  
Chairman, AVEC Annual Village Meeting

470-02,001



# Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

4831 Eagle Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-7497  
(907) 561-1818

Dick Warren  
State of Alaska  
Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Northern Regional Office  
P.O. Box 1601  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

**RECEIVED**  
JUL 27 1987

Dept. of Environ. Conservation  
Nome District

Dear Mr. Warren:

In your letter of July 17, 1986, you have requested a final report be submitted concerning the clean up efforts of a fuel discharge at Ambler.

As you recall on September 20, 1986, I reported to your office an incident that involved the discharge of Arctic Grade #1 fuel oil. The fuel was discharged through a crack at a 3" thread pipe coupling on our fuel fill line. An undetermined amount of fuel oil had leaked into the ground adjacent to the Public Health Service Clinic. We began immediate repairs to the fuel line and the removal of the contaminated soil. Per your instructions, we removed the contaminated soil and spread that material approximately one inch thick on the road beginning at the Ambler airport access road and continuing on towards town. Approximately 500 yards of contaminated soil were removed down to the point of contacting the permafrost. At that point, we were confident that all the contaminated soil had been removed.

Simon Mawson of ADEC in Nome made an on site inspection of the clean up efforts in October 1986. At that time, Mr. Mawson had informed me that AVEC crew responded in a timely fashion and that the site clean up well underway. Taking into consideration the time of year the discharged occurred, we were not able to haul fill to the site in which the contaminated soil was removed until July of this year. To date, we have completed hauling fill and clean up of the site. At the request of the City of Ambler, we have rerouted the fuel fill line, completely away from the PHS Clinic. I might also add that the fuel line has been thoroughly inspected, repaired, and returned to full service.

Should you require additional information concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

John G. Lyons  
Manager, Operations & Maintenance

cc: Mark Teitzel, Manager, Engineering  
Simon Mawson, ADEC/Nome