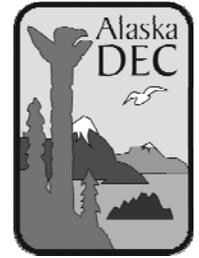


DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
CONTAMINATED SITES PROGRAM

610 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99709



Fact Sheet

Alaska Railroad Corporation – Fairbanks Terminal Reserve

May 2008

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has published this fact sheet to provide public notice that contamination exists on the Alaska Railroad Corporation property located north of Phillips Field Road and west of Illinois Street, east of Driveway Street, and south of Charles Street in Fairbanks, Alaska (refer to Figure on page 3). This area has a long history of industrial activity that has resulted in leaks and spills of oil and other hazardous substances.

This fact sheet outlines recommendations concerning the use of property in this area in order to protect the health and safety of those working or residing there and to prevent the spread of contamination. A history of the investigation and cleanup efforts conducted in this area is also provided.

**Brief history**

Contamination in the area is the result of historical spills and leaks of fuel and other hazardous substances, including, among others, benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, and xylenes. Efforts to remove contamination from the soil have been on-going since the 1980s, but active recovery of fuel products and other contamination have had limited success. Multiple responsible parties in the area have worked cooperatively with DEC since 2004 to resolve these issues to protect public health and clear the way for future development plans.

When Chevron Corporation merged with Texaco in 2001 and with Unocal in 2005, it inherited all contaminated sites registered to these companies and became the main responsible party for the contamination in the area identified here. Since then, Chevron has continued to work with DEC on cleanup, monitoring of contamination of soil and groundwater, and evaluation of all the potential exposure pathways that may pose risks to human health or the environment.

**Subsurface contamination**

DEC has determined, in accordance with spill response

regulations\*, that site cleanup efforts have been performed to the extent practicable, even though contaminated soil and groundwater remain in the area.

The remaining contamination is underground and is largely weathered and dispersed, making additional remedial efforts unfeasible. Further cleanup is also impractical because the remaining contamination is located beneath structures and buildings. If new information indicates there may be health or environmental risks, then additional cleanup may resume.

DEC has tracked the extent of contamination and its changes over time for several years. While we know much about the contamination in this area, uncertainties remain, including the exact boundaries of the area of contamination.

Groundwater transports this contamination underground as it slowly flows to down-gradient areas. Therefore, areas to the west, northwest, and southwest of the area noted by white hatching on the Figure may also be affected by contamination. Removing contamination from groundwater is particularly difficult. A public water system, however, serves this area with clean water.

**Possibility of risk to health and safety**

The nature and extent of contamination in the subject area (i.e. designated by white hatching on the Figure and possibly other areas down-gradient) may pose an unacceptable risk to human health if certain recommendations are not followed. DEC is making the following recommendations in order to minimize any risks to human health and also to help prevent the spread of contamination:

1. **The groundwater should not be used for drinking water (or any other purpose)** until DEC's groundwater cleanup levels are achieved. If there is a groundwater well on your property, the water must

\* 18 AAC 75.325(f)(1)

meet regulatory cleanup levels †. If the groundwater exceeds the cleanup levels (as determined by approved water sample analysis), it should either be treated to meet those levels or the well should be decommissioned in accordance with DEC procedures. The community water available in this area should be used until groundwater cleanup levels are met. The installation of any new groundwater wells should be coordinated with DEC. If you currently have a well on your property and are using it please contact DEC at the number listed at the end of this notice.

2. Soil and groundwater contamination in the area must be managed in accordance with 18 AAC 75.325(i). **If contaminated soil is excavated or groundwater is encountered and must be discharged, DEC should be notified before any transport or discharge from the property.** This prevents the spread of contamination. Information regarding how the excavated soil is to be stored or transported and how groundwater will be contained or discharged should be provided to DEC before transport or discharge.

### ***Why make these recommendations?***

DEC has identified residual contamination that may pose unacceptable health risks if not properly managed. Exposure to fuel contamination may cause short- and long-term health effects, including cancer.

In order to avoid (or minimize) unacceptable exposure risks, we recommend the following measures for people living and working around contamination:

- Do not use groundwater from a well on the property for any purpose, including drinking, cooking, showering, etc.
- Avoid contact with contaminated soil or groundwater encountered during excavation on the property.

Also, please be aware that you may be exposed by:

- Inhaling vapors from water pumped from a well on site, as in washing a car.
- Inhaling vapors from contaminated soil or groundwater during excavation.
- Inhaling vapors that can move through cracks in building foundations into indoor air (more on *vapor intrusion* below).

### ***Further investigation***

Based on sampling efforts in 2007, DEC has requested that Chevron conduct additional assessment work this summer to evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion into some buildings within the area of investigation (cross-hatched area in the Figure). After this sampling takes place, DEC will inform tenants if additional or different precautions should be taken to minimize risk to human health. For more information on vapor intrusion, please refer to the included fact sheet.

You can find more details on the release of fuel and the site cleanup activities in the DEC contaminated sites database. (See <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/csp/sites/fair.htm> and choose the link with the red arrow)

### ***Duration of these recommendations***

These recommendations remain in effect until DEC issues a written determination stating that soil and groundwater at the site have been shown to meet the most stringent cleanup levels in 18 AAC 75.341, Tables B1 and B2, and 18 AAC 75.345, Table C, and that off-site transportation of soil or groundwater is not a concern. If you have any inquiries on the status of this area please see the contact information below.

Please share this fact sheet with other tenants, residents and occupants in your building. If you are an employer, you are required to comply with all state and federal laws regarding posting and/or notification to employees.

### ***For information***

You can find more information about contaminated sites on our web site at:

[http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/csp/db\\_search.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/csp/db_search.htm).

For information on the toxic effects of benzene, see <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts3.html>

**For information** about how to test your well, or questions regarding this groundwater investigation please call:

Tamara Cardona-Marek, DEC Project Manager  
610 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
Phone: (907) 451-2192  
**E-mail: [tamara.cardona-marek@alaska.gov](mailto:tamara.cardona-marek@alaska.gov)**

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† 18 AAC 75.345 Table C

Figure

## Area of Investigation

The area with white cross-hatching is the area under evaluation by Chevron. Information about soil and groundwater contamination is available for this



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Kilometers

← Groundwater flow direction