

Early, Marti (DEC)

From: Early, Marti (DEC)
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 10:51 AM
To: Undisclosed recipients
Subject: Update #4, sulfolane investigation

Greetings to those interested in sulfolane issues in the North Pole area,

Flint Hills continues its investigation of sulfolane in groundwater to the north and northwest the North Pole Refinery. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation continues its oversight of that investigation. Flint Hills' goal is to reach all who are using private wells that may have sulfolane in the water and to enable users to switch to bottled water, as a short-term solution. The company is still testing private wells and working toward a more permanent solution to household water for those consuming bottled water. You will be hearing more about that soon. If you have or know of a private well you think may be in the area of the plume, please contact Jeff Cook at Flint Hills Resources, 488-5104 to get your well tested.

This is a complex issue and the state is bringing to bear resources of different agencies to work on a solution. The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health is the agency charged with public health issues in relation to contaminants. DEC is the state's regulatory agency for the environment. We look to the Division of Public Health to give advice about contaminants and human health. DEC is collaborating with DHSS to address this issue, and both agencies are committed to keeping residents and other stakeholders informed on our progress. The State agencies are planning to have a public meeting soon to discuss the report which the federal health agency will soon release. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) will soon release a report with a recommended level for sulfolane in drinking water. You will hear more about that report through an email update and then we will also hold a public meeting in North Pole. Details will be forthcoming.

We are sending out weekly email updates, such as this one. We have additional information on our website and are happy to answer calls from people who have questions. Links to our webpage on the sulfolane issue as well as contact information appears below.

The webpage on the sulfolane issue has been updated to provide links to toxicological studies for the chemical (www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/sites/npolerefinery.htm). These studies and reports include the primary ones which DEC looked at to determine cleanup level and the health agencies have been looking at to recommend a drinking water level. The studies are technical, but we offer them for those of you who would like to read more.

We also added to the website a groundwater monitoring report which Flint Hills submitted to DEC. This includes a map with monitoring well data on the refinery property as well as one showing results from monitoring wells tested off the property.

If you know of others who would like to receive updates via email, please have them email me and I'll include them in the future. Email addresses are hidden when we send the updates. We also send out updates by postal service to those who don't have email.

If you have questions about DEC's work on this issue, please write or call me.

Sincerely,

Marti

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