

Early, Marti (DEC)

From: Early, Marti (DEC)
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 4:22 PM
To: Undisclosed recipients
Subject: Update #12, sulfolane investigation

Dear concerned citizen,

The Department of Environmental Conservation's Contaminated Sites Program is creating a Technical Project Team to provide comprehensive and coordinated oversight for the investigation of sulfolane in the groundwater in North Pole. The team will consist of experts in the fields of toxicology, engineering, hydrology, and environmental chemistry.

A professional facilitator will coordinate this team of highly qualified scientists to focus on the complex technical issues while working to effectively involve all those interested and concerned. The fundamental goal of this technical team will be to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. We expect the first meeting will take place in mid-April.

In response to many stakeholder requests, DEC is also expanding our communications effort to have more frequent contact with interested groups as well as to update everyone interested in the findings of the technical project team.

Our current web page will soon become more interactive, allowing viewers to send comments and questions to the technical team and project managers. The site will host a frequently updated survey which will allow us to understand and respond to specific public concerns. The website will continue to provide the most current, up-to-date information on sulfolane in groundwater at North Pole. It will also present a library of technical reports and public documents being considered by the Technical Project Team. The large amount of information already on the website will be rearranged to make the site easier to use.

We will send out summaries of all team meetings with details of the team's discussions and decisions. We will continue to use this email list of interested persons to send out general updates, estimated to be monthly.

Two notes about the last update, # 11: "Harley's Diner" is under new ownership and is now open as "Little Richard's." We reported in the last email that their well water has been replaced with water from a holding tank. Also, the HIGHEST (not lowest) recommended level for sulfolane in drinking water, published by a federal health agency in early February, is 25 parts per billion.

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

Sincerely,

Marti Early
Community Involvement Specialist
ADEC - Spill Prevention and Response - Contaminated Sites Program
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907-465-5206

www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/csp/sites/npolerefinery.htm

For more information:

On contaminated sites, contact DEC: Marti Early, 907-465-5206, marti.early@alaska.gov or Ann Farris, 907-451-2104, ann.farris@alaska.gov

On health related information, contact the Alaska Division of Public Health, Nim Ha, 907-269-8028, nim.ha@alaska.gov

On public water supplies, contact DEC, Cindy Christian, 907-451-2222, cindy.christian@alaska.gov

On water testing or other refinery issues, contact Jeff Cook, Flint Hills Resources, 907-488-5104, jeff.cook@fhr.com