CITY OF PETERSBURG

Community Development

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RECEIVED
MAR 21 1996
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

March 18, 1996

Eric Decker
State of Alaska
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Quality
410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 105
Juneau, AK 99801-1795

Dear Mr. Decker:

The City of Petersburg would like to thank you for your March 14 field trip when you and Douglas Redburn conducted a site survey of Hammer Slough. The city appreciates your efforts to review the inclusion of Hammer Slough on the 1996 Section 303(d) list, and I would like to take this opportunity to summarize the areas of mitigation that the city agreed to address which we hope will allow the delisting of Hammer Slough as an impaired waterbody.

1) During your investigation of the City/State rock pit, you discovered that oil was in place on the ground in the area of the city rock crusher. At that time the city agreed to rectify this situation within 48 hours. City crews responded immediately, and discovered two problems. One oil barrel had been stored over the winter missing a plug on the top of the barrel. As the barrel filled with rain, a quantity of oil was displaced onto the ground. Another oil barrel was properly plugged, but apparently the contents contained an oil and water mix. We believe this mixture froze over the winter resulting in a split seam on the barrel and additional oil being placed on the ground.

At 3:00 PM on March 15, I conducted an inspection with Brian Lynch (ADF&G), and was relieved to find that the area had been thoroughly cleaned with the removal of both oil drums, removal of the contaminated soils, the replacement of the removed soils with clean crushed rock, and clean absorbent pads left to catch any residual oil which could possibly leach to the surface.

I would like to add that the rock crusher was not in operation and had been idle since last fall. I believe that the city was unaware of this situation, and I hope that you do not conclude that this is the prevalent condition of the rock crushing operation.

2) You also noted that there were a few areas which could benefit from grass seeding. If the state does not object, the City of Petersburg agrees to reseed the upper northern rim of the state pit, the ditch on the state side of the access road, and the sloped area north of the city shop rock pad prior to May 17, 1996.

3) It is my understanding that DOT will be contacting Miller Construction to address the condition of their work staging area north of the airport runway, and to direct the contractor to perform necessary clean-up to the work site.

4. The City of Petersburg concurs with the observation that the Haul Road parallel to the airport runway is in need of maintenance. The city agrees to continue to share the maintenance of the road with the state. We feel that the condition of the road was unusually poor due to recent winter-time use of the road. This is not normally the case, as winter weather prohibits year-round use. The city expects that the road maintenance will occur this spring prior to the onset of the normal construction season.

5. The City of Petersburg also agrees to continue to monitor operations at the rock pit to minimize effects of rock crushing activities to the Hammer Slough drainage. The city has also conducted a refresher training session with the city employees responsible for the crushing operation and reviewed correct operating procedures hoping to eliminate any recurrence of the oil storage problem that occurred during last winter's shut-down period.

The City of Petersburg would like to thank DEC for conducting the site survey of Hammer Slough. We are hopeful that you will find that the siltation of the slough is within normal parameters for steams flowing through muskeg and blue clay soils. We further hope that with the agreement to complete of the above-mentioned remedial actions, Hammer Slough could be removed from the 1996 Section 303(d) list.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Leo Luczak
Director of Community Development

cc: Michele Brown, ADEC Commissioner (fax 465-5070)
Jon Scribner, ADOT Southeast (fax 465-2016)
Brian Lynch. ADFG (fax 772 9336)
Mayor Meucci and City Council Members
Linda Snow, City Manager
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