

STATE OF ALASKA

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DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

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March 15, 1996

Eric Decker
Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Quality
410 Willoughby Av., Suite 105
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RE: Hammer Slough

Dear Eric:

During the morning of March 14, 1996 I along with you and Doug Redburn of ADEC; Ken Hagerman from ADOT/PF; and Ken Thynes from the City of Petersburg, examined the Hammer Slough drainage to identify sources of pollution/sedimentation and possible remedial actions necessary to correct identified problems.

The pollution sources, remedial actions necessary to stop or control pollution and stream sedimentation and the agencies responsible for corrective actions are outlined below:

1. Existing Rock Quarry.

A. Oil (hydraulic/crankcase) had contaminated surface runoff water that had collected directly under and around the City of Petersburg rock crusher and was entering the E Fk. of Hammer Slough Cr. The City of Petersburg was identified as the responsible agency and all parties were in agreement that this pollution source is manageable and that rapid cleanup, combined with the City instituting better rock crusher operation and maintenance procedures should be sufficient to control this pollution source. The City was requested to begin cleanup of the oil within 48 hours of the inspection but City personnel actually began cleanup procedures by 1:00 p.m. that afternoon and had completed cleanup by removal of the existing oil and a layer of contaminated soil by 3:00 pm this afternoon. I inspected the area at 3:00 pm and did not observe any residual oil sheen on standing water or in the runoff into the settling pond. I will continue to monitor the site for any indication that additional cleanup procedures need to be initiated.

B. Silt entering runoff water from unstable soils located above exposed rock along the west side of the quarry. Although this portion of the quarry is managed by the State DOT, the City of Petersburg agreed to apply grass seed to this area to stabilize the soils.

C. Maintenance of existing settling pond at the entrance to the quarry. The City of Petersburg was identified as the responsible agency and agreed to silt removal and deepening of the pond to increase settling volume as part of continued operation and maintenance of the rock crusher. All parties agreed that this should be sufficient to control sedimentation resulting from rock quarry operations.

2. Quarry Access Road

A. Sedimentation from the sloughing of unstable soils from both sides of the drainage ditch along the south side of the access road immediately below the entrance to the pit. This area is maintained by both DOT and City of Petersburg. Application of grass seed should stabilize the soils.

B. Very fine soils dumped along the stream bank approx. 200 feet up the access road from the weigh station. The soils are migrating toward and into the stream and contributing to increased turbidity and stream sedimentation. Along with the soils, a significant amount of trash and some containing oil and other hydrocarbons was also dumped at this site. This dumping was apparently the action of the contractor hired to perform the Petersburg Airport runway resurfacing project. However, the State DOT/PF was identified as the agency responsible for corrective action because the contractor was hired by DOT. Application of grass seed to the deposited soils while it is still wet should stabilize the soil and prevent the input of fines into the stream. The deposited trash should also be removed and properly disposed of.

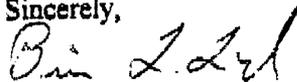
C. East/West portion of access road surface. Approx. 500 feet of this road is extremely soft and is introducing some very fine material into the NE fork of Hammer Slough Cr. This was apparently caused by heavy truck traffic during a period of thaw this past winter. Continued routine road maintenance by all users (State, Federal and City of Petersburg) should be sufficient to correct this problem.

3. City of Petersburg Public Works storage area.

Unstable soils along the stream bank above the culvert running under the storage area are sloughing into the NE Fk at that point and introducing silt into the stream. Application of grass seed to stabilize the soils and restricting use of the storage area near the top of the stream bank should prevent further soil erosion and stream sedimentation.

I will continue to conduct examinations and evaluations of the recommended remedial actions on a periodic basis and report to you on the status of each. Hopefully, the recommended actions will result in the eventual removal of Hammer Slough Creek from the 1996 Section 303(d) list.

Sincerely,



Brian Lynch
Asst. Area Mgt. Biologist

cc: Leo Luzak--City of Petersburg
Ken Hagerman--DOT/PF, Petersburg