

Department of Environmental Conservation Report

Contaminated Site Data and Actions For: 88250927601

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Generic Name: Mine-Red Devil Cr.
Facility Name: Red Devil Mine Waste Ponds
Facility: Red Devil Creek
Address:
 City/State/Zip: Red Devil AK 99656
 Telephone: 907
Company: U.S. Dept. of Interior
Operator: Bureau of Land Management
Mailing Address: 701 C St. Box 13
City/State/Zip: Anchorage AK 99513-0099
Telephone: 907 271 3356
Elect. District: HD 26
Coastal Zone: N
Drinking Water: U
Permit No:
Staff: Roberts
Ranking Score: 73
File No: CS
Responsible Party: U
Landowner: S

Latitude: 61 45
Longitude: 157 19
Legal:

Problem: Mercury & arsenic were discharged to Red Devil Creek as a result of mining operations.

Comments: CERCLA AKD9804956018

Actions:

Code	Description	By	Date	Due	Completion	Funding	Status
A	Preliminary Assessment	EPACON	*****	*****	CERCLA	Tryck, Nymen, & Hayes states due to low population & residents' awareness of the mine, potential public health effects due to exposure to mercury & arsenic are low.	
SI	Site Investigation	RP	*****	PR	BLM sends site inspection report. It states that transformers that remain on site contain less than 50 ppm PCBs. Direct contact threat of caustic chemicals should be removed from site.		
H	No further action require	EPA	*****	CERCLA	U.S. EPA Superfund Program CERCLIS dated 10-03-90 shows NFA flag which means that EPA plans no further action at this site.		
ADD	Site added to database	DEC	*****	OTHER	Mercury, antimony, arsenic in tailings.		
RKY	Reckey number changed	DEC	*****	OTHER	Old# 88220927601 New#88250927601 Western district now.		

STATE OF ALASKA

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Telephone: (907)

Address:

SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE
3601 C STREET, SUITE 1350
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

563-6529

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT
REQUESTED
November 16, 1987

RECEIVED

NOV 20 1987

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Mike Penfold, Director
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
701 C Street, Box 13
Anchorage, AK 99513

Dear Mr. Penfold:

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) conducts site inspections at sites suspected of past uncontrolled hazardous substance disposal. This work is funded under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or "Superfund").

DEC, with the assistance of a contractor, recently completed a site inspection at the Red Devil Mine, which is located eight miles downriver from Sleetmute on the Kuskokwim River. The report indicates that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the property owner and that there have been numerous lessees.

EPA has developed a scoring method to determine the relative threat to human health and the environment of sites being evaluated under CERCLA, the Hazard Ranking System (HRS). Sites that score 28.5 or greater (on a scale to 100) are nominated to the National Priorities List (NPL). Sites on the NPL are then eligible for cleanup using CERCLA funds. The HRS scoring system is being revised and should be completed next spring. Using the information on the site inspection report, the Red Devil Mine is not likely to score greater than 28.5 on the current HRS system.

The NPL contains only those sites that are the "worst of the worst" in the nation. While Red Devil Mine may not rank on the NPL at this time, DEC believes that there may be a potential threat to human health and the environment from contamination related to past mining operations. This could result primarily from periodic flooding of settling ponds; mercury and arsenic in the sediment could enter Red Devil Creek and travel downstream.

Although residents in the area are aware of the mine and the presence of mercury and arsenic at the mine, due to the unrestricted access to the area, other people or new residents could become at risk. Therefore, the area

Mike Penfold
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should immediately be posted with signs to warn of possible hazards. BLM may also want to take additional samples to further define any contaminated areas and decide on any remedial action you feel necessary to protect people and wildlife from direct exposure. Specifically, at a minimum we recommend repair work on the settling pond dikes and further berm work or other excavation to minimize erosion in the area and prevent any spread of contaminated areas. Now, such activities may not be possible until spring of next year. Please respond to me within 90 days of receipt of this letter with your plans for this site.

A copy of this letter will be provided to Jack Gusmano, the EPA coordinator for CERCLA activities at federal facilities in Alaska. Any actions you take at this site should also be coordinated with Mr. Gusmano.

Your prompt attention to this site is appreciated. If you have any questions regarding this site inspection or any aspect of DEC involvement in the CERCLA program, please call me or Lynn Tomich Kent in the DEC Central Office at 465-2666.

Sincerely,



Bill H. Lamoreaux
Regional Supervisor

BHL:CB:by

cc: S. Torok, EPA A00J
J. Gusmano, EPA A00A
D. DiTraglia, DEC CO
B. Erickson, DEC A/WDO