

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION DIVISION OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE CONTAMINATED SITES PROGRAM

**FRANK MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR**

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File: 210.26.003

November 28, 2006

Al Weinberg  
Alaska Gateway School District  
PO Box 226  
Tok, AK 99780

Re: Mentasta Elementary School  
Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST)

Dear Mr. Weinberg:

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Contaminated Sites Program, (ADEC) reviewed the *NORTECH Underground Storage Tank Closure Assessment Report, Mentasta School* dated September 29, 1992. Based on the information from this report, the administrative file, and groundwater data supplied by the Gateway School District, ADEC has determined that soil contamination remains at the site above the most stringent 18 AAC 75.341 soil cleanup levels but the nature and extent of the contamination does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

Please note that this determination is subject to site specific conditions and, if complied with, will require no further remedial action at this time. The following information was considered in making the determination on the environmental status of this site.

### **Background**

In 1992, two 9,000 gallon underground storage tanks were removed from this site. It was reported that contaminated soil was present and appeared to be from overfills and releases in the location of the fill and vent pipes.

Approximately 200 cubic yards of soil was excavated and transported off site and stored on Gateway School District property in Tok. The highest level of contamination reported was 4500 milligrams per kilogram diesel range organics in one sidewall of the excavation. The soil was transported off site because the drinking water well on the school property also served as the water supply for the community. The well is 68 feet deep and has not detected any petroleum hydrocarbon contamination when sampled in 1992 and 2002.

The community of Mentasta is currently served by a water well at the washeteria and the elementary school well no longer is the primary water source for the community. There is also a drinking water well at the Mentasta Apartment Complex operated by the Copper River Regional

Housing Authority. That well is 140 feet deep and has been sampled with results showing no evidence of contamination in 1996, 1999 and 2002.

### **Pathways Evaluated**

Pathways evaluated at the site include the human health pathways of ingestion (soil and water) and inhalation and the migration to groundwater pathway.

The contamination remaining on site does not exceed the health based cleanup levels for ingestion/inhalation. However, there is evidence that soil contamination remains at the limits of excavation above the cleanup levels for migration to groundwater. However, groundwater monitoring from the school and apartment wells indicates there have been no impacts to groundwater.

### **Cleanup Levels**

The soil cleanup levels established for this site are: 18 AAC 75.341 Tables B1 and B2 "under 40 inch zone" migration to groundwater levels

The groundwater cleanup levels are: 18 AAC 75.345 Table C.

### **ADEC Decision**

Based on the information provided to date, ADEC has determined that the cleanup actions employed at the Mentasta Elementary School have been effective in removing the source(s) of contamination at the site. The contamination remaining on site does not pose a risk to human health or the environment provided site specific conditions and/or controls are attached to the property.

ADEC requires no further remedial action subject to the following conditions:

1. A Notice of Environmental Contamination will be recorded on the ADEC Database identifying the nature and extent of contamination remaining on site.
2. In accordance with 18 AAC 78.274(b), ADEC approval must be obtained prior to removal and/or disposal of soil or groundwater from this site to an off-site location.
3. The school's drinking water well shall be monitored in accordance with a schedule and plan approved by ADEC.

Site closure (without conditions) can be achieved when soil sampling confirms that all soil meets the most stringent 18 AAC 75.341, migration to groundwater, Under 40 Inch Zone, cleanup levels.

In accordance with 18 AAC 78.276(f)(2) ADEC may require additional site assessment, monitoring, remediation, and/or other necessary actions at this facility should new information become available that indicates contamination at this site may pose a threat to human health or the environment.

Any person who disagrees with this decision may request an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 18 AAC 15.195 – 18 AAC 15.340 or an informal review by the Division Director in accordance with 18 AAC 15.185. Informal review requests must be delivered to the Division

Director, PO Box 111800, 410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303, Juneau, Alaska 99811-1800, within 15 days of the decision. Adjudicatory hearing requests must be delivered to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, PO Box 111800, 410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303, Juneau, Alaska 99811-1800, within 30 days of the decision. If a hearing is not requested within 30 days, the right to appeal is waived.

If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Oelkers by phone at 907-451-2104 or via e-mail at Shannon\_Oelkers@dec.state.ak.us.

Sincerely,



Shannon Oelkers  
Environmental Program Specialist



Jim Frechione  
Environmental Program Manager