

STATE OF ALASKA

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

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

610 University Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99709-3643
PHONE: (907) 451-2104
FAX: (907) 451-5105
www.dec.state.ak.us

File: 210.38.002

May 17, 2007

Carolyn David
First Chief
Mentasta Lake Traditional Council
PO Box 600
Mentasta Lake, AK 99780

Re: Mentasta Village Clinic - Soil Stockpile
Reckey # 1990330112901

Dear Chief David:

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Contaminated Sites Program (ADEC) reviewed the administrative file established for the heating fuel release at the Mentasta Clinic in the early 1990s. Based on the information presented to date, ADEC has determined that soil contamination may remain on 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. This determination is subject to site specific conditions and, if complied with, will require no further remedial action at this time.

Please note the following information that was considered in making the determination on the environmental status of the site.

Background

Mentasta Village is a small community located 6 miles off the Tok cutoff of the Glenn Highway, 38 miles south of Tok Junction in the foothills of the Alaska Range. A history of leakage from a 300 gallon heating fuel tank located behind the Mentasta Village Clinic building and next to the Clinic's well house has been documented. A spill was reported in the spring of 1990 after two attempts to fill the tank were unsuccessful. Spill response efforts were initiated and potentially contaminated soil was excavated and temporarily stockpiled on site. There were no soil samples collected from the limits of excavation but the onsite drinking water well was sampled for volatile organic compounds (VOCs): none were detected.

It was originally reported that 7,000 cubic yards of soil was excavated but a recent ADEC site inspection identified only a 350 cubic yard stockpile. It is believed that the report of cubic yards was perhaps an error in the conversion of cubic feet to cubic yards. The stockpiled soils are currently part of the Mentasta Village fire break, approximately ¼ mile from the village.

The depth to groundwater is between 180 to 250 feet below the ground surface. The village relies on groundwater for the community's needs and it has been periodically sampled for petroleum hydrocarbons with no evidence of contamination.

Since 1990, the building that housed the village clinic has become a residence and a new well was installed in 2002.

Cleanup Levels

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

The groundwater cleanup levels established for the site are the 18 AAC 75.345 Table C levels.

Pathways Evaluated

Pathways evaluated at the site include: ingestion (soil and water), inhalation (indoor and outdoor air) and migration to groundwater.

There is no evidence that soil contamination exceeds the ingestion or inhalation levels established for protection of human health.

The soil contamination may exceed migration to groundwater cleanup levels but there is no evidence the groundwater has been impacted above ADEC cleanup levels.

ADEC Decision

Based on the information provided to date, ADEC has determined that the cleanup actions employed at the former Mentasta Village Clinic were effective in removing the source(s) of the contamination at the site. The stockpiled soils are being beneficially used as part of the village firebreak and are located in a non-environmentally sensitive area.

The contamination remaining at the former tank site and in the stockpile along the firebreak does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment provided site specific conditions and/or controls are attached to the property. As a result of this determination, ADEC will require no further remedial action subject to the following conditions:

1. A Notice of Environmental Contamination will be listed on the ADEC Contaminated Sites Database identifying the nature and extent of contamination remaining on site.
2. In accordance with 18 AAC 75.370(b), ADEC approval must be obtained prior to removal and/or disposal of soil or groundwater from this site to an off-site location.

ADEC recommends that the residential water well established at the former tank site be monitored every three to five years for petroleum contamination, including volatile organic compounds.

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

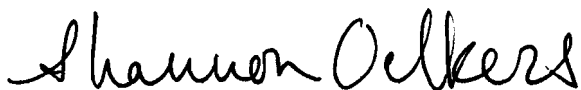
In accordance with 18 AAC 75.380(d)(2) ADEC may require additional site assessment, monitoring, remediation, and/or other necessary actions at this facility should new information become available that indicates contamination at this site may pose a threat to human health or the environment.

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

cc: Shawn Sandford, Tribal Administrator
Virginia John, City Clerk