STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE
CONTAMINATED SITES PROGRAM

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File: 1542.38.001

January 7, 2010

Scott Berglund
Federal Aviation Administration
Environmental Section
AAL-471, FAA
222 W. 7th Ave, Box 14
Anchorage, AK 99513-7587

Re: **FAA Biorka Island RCAG, Record of Decision (ROD)**
Corrective Action Complete Determination
RecKey # 1996120123701, Hazard ID #2546

Dear Mr. Berglund:

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Contaminated Sites Program has completed a review of the environmental records associated with the FAA Biorka Island Remote Center Air/Ground tower (RCAG) or Radar Site located in southeast Alaska in Sitka Sound near Baranof Island. Based on the information provided to date, DEC has determined that the contaminant concentrations remaining on site do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment, and this site will be closed.

Introduction
This decision is based on the administrative record for FAA Biorka Island, which is located in the offices of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) in Fairbanks, Alaska. This letter summarizes the decision process used to determine the environmental status of this site and provides a summary of the regulatory issues considered in the Corrective Action Complete Determination.

Regulatory authority under which the site is being cleaned up:
18 AAC 75 and 18 AAC 78

Background
Underground storage tank (UST) 47-B-01 located southeast of the generator building at the RCAG was removed and decommissioned in August 1996. Five cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed during tank closure. Further excavation in October 1996 removed an additional 35 cubic yards of contaminated soil. Confirmation samples detected residual range organics (RRO) to 196 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), toluene to 1.156 mg/kg, and xylenes to 19.51 mg/kg, all sample results were either non-detect, or below the Method 2 Migration to Groundwater Cleanup levels.

DEC issued a closure determination for the UST on December 18, 2001. However, the site remained open because FAA included an area of stained soil from a former drum storage area as part of this site, or "Area of Concern".

Characterization Activities
During a 1990 Site Investigation, stained soil was identified under two 55 gallon drums that were stored at the RCAG site. The drums appeared to contain rainwater and ashes. A 20 square foot area of stained soil was observed below the drums, with staining extended to a depth of one inch. Soil samples were collected for analysis and no polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) or hydrocarbon compounds were detected above the most stringent Method 2 cleanup levels. RROs were detected at 50 mg/kg, gasoline and diesel range organics were not detected. Soil from the stained area was submitted for toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) analysis. Only trace amounts of barium and lead were detected.

In 1994, the drums and their contents were disposed of in the Sitka landfill, and the stained soil was scarified, fertilized, and re-seeded. In 2002, FAA returned to the area hoping to collect additional samples for analysis of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes as well as polyaromatic hydrocarbons, but the soil stain could not be located. In 2008, FAA and DEC staff conducted a site visit to Biorka Island. The soil stain could not be located, and it was determined that the area had either revegetated, or been developed over during construction of the Engine Generator Building.

ADEC Decision
The cleanup actions to date have served to remove a potential contaminant source, and adequately characterize the soil. The samples collected from the stained soil indicate that the soil stain and stressed vegetation may have been caused by an alkaline discharge from rainwater leaching through the ashes in the drums; the soil has revegetated and does not pose a risk to human health or the environment. Based on the information available, DEC has determined no further assessment or cleanup action is required, and this site will be designated as cleanup complete on the Department's database.

This determination is in accordance with 18 AAC 78.276(f) and does not preclude DEC from requiring additional assessment and/or cleanup action if future information indicates that this site may pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

Appeal
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, 410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303, Juneau, Alaska 99801, within 15 days after receiving the department's decision reviewable under this section. Adjudicatory hearing requests must be delivered to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, 410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303, Juneau, Alaska 99801, within 30 days after the date of issuance of this letter, or within 30 days after the department issues a final decision under 18 AAC 15.185. If a hearing is not requested within 30 days, the right to appeal is waived.

If you have questions about this closure decision, please contact the DEC project manager, Kim DeRuyter at (907) 451-2752.

Sincerely,

Fred Vreeman
Environmental Program Manager