

# STATE OF ALASKA

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

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

P.O. Box 111800  
Juneau, AK 99801-1800  
PHONE: (907) 465-5390  
FAX: (907) 465-5218  
www.dec.state.ak.us

July 16, 2007

Larry White  
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
P.O. Box 112506  
6860 Glacier Hwy.  
Juneau, AK 99811-2506

Re: ADOTPF – Gustavus Airport  
Site Closure Approval  
Database ID # 1999110033501  
File #1507.26.003

Dear Mr. White:

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Contaminated Sites Program, completed a review of the document titled *Site Assessment Report UST Removal at Facility ID# 0-001036* submitted November 19, 1999. This document is related to the underground storage tank that was previously located at this site. Based on the information presented in this report and recent drinking water data received by the State, ADEC has determined that further cleanup action at this site is not required at this time.

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

### Site Background

A 1,000-gallon underground storage tank which contained diesel was removed from this site on October 25, 1999. Diesel contamination started at about three feet below the ground surface and continued to eight feet below the ground surface where groundwater was encountered. The location of the oily dirt suggested past overfills or failure where the fill pipe connected to the tank. Ten cubic yards of diesel-contaminated soil was identified, excavated and barged to United Soil Recyclers in Juneau for treatment and disposal.

Soil samples taken from the excavation side walls and floor were tested for diesel range organic (DRO) only. The soil samples should have included an analysis for benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene,

and xylenes (BTEX), but for an unknown reason, the contractor did not include these contaminants in the analysis. Since the DRO levels in the remaining soil were below the required 18 AAC 75.341 Method 2 clean up level, it is assumed that the BTEX levels would also be below the cleanup levels.

Groundwater, encountered in the excavation pit at about 7.5 feet below ground surface, should have been sampled at the time of tank excavation. Because the contaminant source was removed, however, there was no compelling reason to immediately request ADOT&PF to conduct sampling. The site consequently remained inactive and unable to be closed on the department's database for nearly eight years.

Recently, ADEC has been reviewing the status of many contaminated properties that have languished on its database for some time, including the Gustavus airport site. Due to the high cost of having a contractor transport a drilling unit to Gustavus to obtain a direct groundwater sample from the former source area, ADEC elected to sample tap water from wells in the vicinity.

On June 20, 2007, I collected tap water samples from the ADOT&PF well and the Alaska Airlines well. The water samples were analyzed for DRO according to Method AK102. The 18 AAC 75.345 Table C cleanup level for DRO in groundwater is 1.5 parts per million (ppm). The sample results are as follows:

Water Samples	DRO in ppm
ADOT well	<0.11
ADOT well duplicate	<0.11
Alaska Airlines well	1.1
Alaska Airlines well duplicate	0.40

### Cleanup Levels

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

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

### Pathway Evaluation

The following exposure and/or migration pathways were considered in this decision document. The exposure pathways for human health at this site include outdoor air inhalation and groundwater ingestion.

The soil contaminant levels remaining do not exceed the 18 AAC 75.341 Method 2 soil cleanup levels for human health pathways of ingestion and inhalation.

The migration to groundwater pathway is complete because groundwater is shallow in this area and was encountered in the excavation pit and because the community of Gustavus relies on groundwater as a drinking water source.

It is recognized that all contaminants of concern (e.g. BTEX) were not tested for, but remedial actions effectively minimized any risk to human health or the environment. The contaminant source (the tank) and all of the diesel contaminated soil was removed at the time of tank excavation.

#### **ADEC Decision**

The removal of the tank and the contaminated soil was effective in eliminating any hazardous substance contamination from the site. As a result, no further cleanup action is required and site closure is approved.

Please note that this decision is subject to 18 AAC 78.276(f)(2), which allows ADEC to require additional site assessment, monitoring, remediation, and/or other necessary actions if 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, P.O. 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, P.O. 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 me at 907-465-5229 or via e-mail at [evonne.reese@alaska.gov](mailto:evonne.reese@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,



Evonne Reese  
Environmental Program Specialist

cc: Mike Pedersen ADOT - Gustavus

