

STATE OF ALASKA

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

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

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September 30, 2003

Monique Garbowicz
Anchorage International Airport
State of Alaska DOT&PF
PO Box 196960
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6960

RE: Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (AIA)
AIA Fire Training Pits
ADEC Reckey Number 1988210105901
No Further Remedial Action Planned Determination

Dear Monique:

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Contaminated Sites Program (DEC) reviewed the site file to address your request for consideration of No Further Remedial Action Planned status for the AIA Fire Training Pits site. The following information is a summary of the site history and DEC's decision regarding the environmental status of the site.

Site Background

Anchorage International Airport (AIA) is classified as a medium hub airport and, as such, the Airport Fire Department is required by the Federal Aviation Administration to have live fire training on an annual basis. In 1970 the AIA constructed a Fire Training Facility on the south side of runway 6R. The facility is approximately 6 acres in size and was constructed using excavated materials obtained during construction of runways and South Air Park.

The fire training exercises were reportedly conducted in unlined depressions and other areas of the pad between 1970 and 1989. The aerial photography of the area shows that the configuration of the burn areas changed over the years but were predominantly located in the southeast portion of the pad where the present fire pit is located. Until 1984, liquids to be burned in the training exercises were stored in tanks and drums at an uncontrolled location on the pad and reportedly consisted of fuels, waste oil, waste solvents and alcohol. After 1984 fuels were purchased for the training exercises and waste products were no longer used. The Fire Training Facility was upgraded in 1990 at the same location with the installation of a liner and a system to treat any impacted water.

Between 1984 and 1991 several investigations of the burn pit were conducted. The activities included: soil sampling, groundwater monitoring, soil removal, installation of a liner and an oil/water separator, and construction of a treatment (aeration/settling) pond. In 1997, a site investigation was conducted that analyzed 42 soil samples for gasoline (GRO), diesel (DRO) and residual (RRO) range petroleum hydrocarbons. The highest GRO sample result was 22 mg/kg at 20 feet below the ground surface (bgs) from soil boring MW-4. The highest DRO sample result was 1,400 mg/kg collected at the ground surface in the drainage ditch. The highest RRO sample result



was 2,600 mg/kg at 15 bgs in soil boring BH-1. Several soil samples were also analyzed for total lead, volatile organic compounds (VOC's), polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) but none of the results exceeded 18 AAC 75 levels.

The hydrogeology of the site indicates the soil varies and could be described as relatively impermeable. The groundwater is reportedly 65 feet bgs with monitoring data presented in the report titled "Fire Training Facility Groundwater and Site Closeout Assessment Report Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport Anchorage, Alaska dated June 13, 2001. There were low level impacts to groundwater from diesel and residual range organics but the concentrations were below 18 AAC 75.345 Table C cleanup levels with evidence of a stable trend.

DEC Decision

DEC has determined that the "AIA Fire Training Pits" site does not pose a risk to human health or the environment and warrants "No Further Remedial Action Planned" (NFRAP) status. This decision is based on the following:

1. ~~The AIA Fire Training Pits site has been upgraded since it was originally used with a liner and~~ water treatment pond installed to minimize future impacts. There may be impacted soil remaining above the 18 AAC 75.341 migration to groundwater levels but the groundwater (even though not used for drinking water purposes at the AIA) has not been impacted above the 18 AAC 75.345 cleanup levels. Groundwater should continue to be monitored in accordance with a plan approved by DEC.
2. Any proposed transport of soil from the site is subject to DEC approval in accordance with 18 AAC 75.325(i).
3. This decision is made on available information presented to date. If future information is provided that indicates contamination is present at levels that may pose a risk to human health or the environment, additional investigative and/or cleanup action may be required.
4. The Contaminated Sites database will indicate the AIA Fire Training Pits site as a NFRAP status with groundwater monitoring.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 269-7658.

Sincerely,



Jim Frechione
Environmental Manager