

STATE OF ALASKA

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

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

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File Nos. 1525.26.027 and 1525.38.018

December 17, 2009

Mr. Mark Ridgway
United States Coast Guard
Civil Engineering Unit Juneau
Post Office Box 21747
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1747

Re: USCG Air Station Sitka and USCG Japonski Island Technician Shop
Site Closure Determination

Dear Mr. Ridgway:

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has received and reviewed the *Final Underground Storage Tank Removal Closure Report* for the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Air Station Sitka site, prepared by North Wind and dated August 2009. The report is approved in accordance with 18 Alaska Administrative Code 78.

In June 2009, a 610-gallon regulated underground storage tank was removed. The excavation was advanced to 15' by 15' and to groundwater at a depth of 8'. Five (5) confirmation samples were collected and analyzed for diesel-range organics with the highest concentration found being 240 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) adjacent to the fuel fill pipe. All of the sample results were below the DEC-approved cleanup levels for the entire USCG Sitka Base of 2300 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) diesel-range organics. No soil was removed. No action was required.

In a letter dated December 10, 2007, DEC notified you as to its approval of the *2007 Removal Action Report* and of the subsequent requirements for closure for the USCG Air Station Sitka and USCG Japonski Island Technician Shop sites. A copy of this letter is enclosed. Prior to DEC being able to make a closure determination on these sites, DEC needed to obtain documentation that an institutional controls tracking system would ensure that 1) soils containing concentrations of contaminants of concern above the most stringent default pathways present at these sites cannot be moved off the USCG Sitka Base without DEC approval, 2) if the asphalt at the sites is removed and contaminated soil is found, DEC would be notified and the soil managed in accordance with regulation and guidance, and 3) groundwater wells cannot be installed to use the groundwater for drinking water.

Mr. Mark Ridgway
USCG Air Station Sitka and Japonski Island Technician Shop

December 17, 2009
Page 2

To date, DEC has not been informed that the USCG has developed a tracking system for institutional controls. On July 24, 2009, DEC adopted a new policy for site closure. A copy of the memorandum is located on our website at the following link, <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/csp/guidance/closurememo.pdf>. According to our new policy, for sites with lower-level petroleum soil contamination where groundwater is not contaminated, DEC is able to issue a closure determination without the USCG having established an institutional controls tracking system. As the cleanup level for this site exceeds DEC's default cleanup level, the USCG still needs to place an institutional control which outlines the area of remaining contamination and ensures that the contaminated soil will be managed in accordance to DEC guidance and regulations. Although the site cleanup levels were based upon a determination that groundwater is not a current or future source of drinking water, groundwater contamination was not found at either of these sites. Furthermore, even though the USCG facility is supplied with municipal water, the USCG needs to ensure that no drinking water wells are installed.

DEC has determined that both the USCG Air Station Sitka and Japonski Island Technician Shop sites can be closed.

Please note that if in the future additional contamination is found to be present that may pose an unacceptable risk to human health, safety, welfare or the environment, it must be reported to the department and additional cleanup may be required.

If you have any questions about these sites, please do not hesitate to contact me 766-3184.

Sincerely,



Anne Marie Palmieri
Environmental Program Specialist