

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

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

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August 28, 2008

File no.: 2114.38.012

Via Facsimile and Regular Mail

Mr. Michael Wilcox
United States Forest Service
Post Office Box 21628
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Re: Approval of Removal Action Report and Lead Soil Sample Analytical Final Report
Site Closure Approved
USFS Whittier Fire Hall, rekey: 2003240930801

Dear Mr. Wilcox:

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (department) has completed review of the *Lead Soil Sample Analytical Final Report* for the Removal Action at the Whittier Fire Hall located in Whittier, Alaska, prepared by ChemTrack, Inc., and dated August 2008. This report meets the requirements of 18 Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) 75.380 and is approved.

The former Whittier Fire Hall was a 6800 square foot building that was reported constructed in 1952 by the United States Army. The U.S. Army utilized the property until 1963 until it was transferred to the United States Forest Service (USFS) and became part of the Chugach National Forest. From 1969-2000, the City of Whittier leased the building from the USFS to house the city offices, including the police office, jail, and court office.

In 2003, USFS consultants, Kent & Sullivan, Inc., conducted an environmental site assessment of the property and determined that the flaking lead-based paint on the exterior of the building had caused a release of lead to the soil around the building. As part of the building demolition in 2007, USFS consultants, ChemTrack, removed and containerized one (1) cubic yard of lead-based paint chips from the building. In addition, ChemTrack excavated four (4) cubic yards of lead-based paint chip-contaminated soil which was disposed of at the Anchorage Municipal Landfill. ChemTrack did not collect confirmation samples following the removal of the contaminated soil. In July 2008, ChemTrack collected 15 soil samples to develop a site-wide lead concentration. Sample results ranged from non-detect to 127 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). A 95%-upper confidence limit (UCL) of 65.56 mg/kg was calculated from the sample results data set.

Closure Determination

The department has determined that the Whittier Fire Hall site can be closed. Results of all confirmation samples collected following the removal showed that concentrations of lead are below the residential soil cleanup level of 400 mg/kg.

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 this determination, please do not hesitate to contact me at 766-3184.

Sincerely,



Anne Marie Palmieri
Environmental Program Specialist

cc: Colin Craven, DEC- Fairbanks (via electronic mail)