



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of  
Environmental Conservation**

DIVISION OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE  
Contaminated Sites Program

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File: 860.38.047

September 29, 2017

Christiana Hewitt  
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2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 155  
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Subject: Non-Qualifying Site Determination for Site SS021, Bldg 1549 Old Fire Station, Former Galena Forward Operating Location

Dear Ms. Hewitt:

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) has completed a review of the Final and Supplemental *Site Characterization Results Report for the Birchwood Hangar (Site SS014), Truck Fill-Stands (Site SS017), and Old Fire Station (Site SS021)*, dated September 2013 and November 2014, respectively. The reports provide the results of the Site Characterization (SC) investigation conducted at Site SS014, SS017, and SS021. Based on the information provided, the Department has determined that Site SS021 is "Non-Qualifying" based on the absence of surface contaminant concentrations that would pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Although groundwater contamination has been detected at Site SS021, the contamination has been attributed to the upgradient Site SS017. Cleanup activities to address the migration of contamination to groundwater are being conducted under the approved work plan, *Cleanup Plan for Site SS014, Birchwood Hangar and Site SS017, Truck Fill Stands, Former Galena Forward Operating Location, Alaska*, dated November 2016.

This decision is based on the administrative record for Galena AFS/Site SS021, which is located at the ADEC office in Fairbanks, Alaska. This letter summarizes the decision process used to determine the environmental status of the site and provides a summary of the regulatory issues considered in the Non-Qualifying Site Determination.

**Site Name and Location:** Galena AFS/Airport  
SS021 Bldg. 1549 Old Fire Station  
Southern Cantonment Triangle  
Galena, Alaska 99741  
64°44'20.50"N, 156°57'17.50"W

**Name and Mailing Address of Contact Party:**  
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**DEC Site Identifiers:**  
File No.: 860.38.047  
Hazard ID.: 25909

**Regulatory Authority for Determination:**  
18 AAC 75

### Site Description and Background

Site SS021 is located in the southern portion of the cantonment triangle at the FOL. The area is bordered by open gravel and grassy areas to the north; the vehicle maintenance facility (VMF) to the west; the fire station to the east; the runway to the south; and paved areas to the southeast and southwest. The primary features within or near Site SS021 include the Former Building 1549 (Old Fire Station) and the Former Building 1548 (Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants (POL) Operations Office).

The former Building 1548 was constructed west of the fire station in 1945. USAF records indicate that the building was a 20-foot by 20-foot wooden hut used for POL operations and quality control (QC). The QC function likely involved testing POL products and possibly storing drums of product or waste POL in or near the facility. No release history has been found for Building 1548, which was demolished in 1974.

Building 1549, formerly known as Building T-111, was a two-story, 50-foot by 60-foot wooden frame structure built in 1945. A four-bay garage in the south side of the building was used for vehicle storage and maintenance. The building was heated by steam provided from the former power plant (Building 1558). No release history was found for Building 1549, which was demolished in the 1970s.

### Contaminants of Concern

During investigations at this site, no contaminants of concern were located in the surface or subsurface soils. Groundwater contamination at this site has been attributed to Site SS017 Former Truck Fill Stands, located to the northeast of Site SS021. Groundwater contamination is being addressed under the DEC approved work plan for Sites SS014 and SS017, *Cleanup Plan for Site SS014, Birchwood Hangar and Site SS017, Truck Fill Stands, Former Galena Forward Operating Location, Alaska*, dated November 2016.

### Exposure Pathway Evaluation

Following investigation at the site, exposure pathways were evaluated using ADEC's Exposure Tracking Model (ETM). Exposure pathways are the conduits by which contamination may reach human or ecological receptors. ETM results show all pathways to be one of the following: De-Minimis Exposure, Exposure Controlled, or Pathway Incomplete. A summary of this pathway evaluation is included in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Exposure Pathway Evaluation**

Pathway	Result	Explanation
Surface Soil Contact	Pathway Incomplete	No release history has been documented for this site and no surface contamination has been detected during site investigations.
Subsurface Soil Contact	Pathway Incomplete	No release history has been documented for this site and no subsurface contamination has been detected during site investigations.
Inhalation – Outdoor Air	Pathway Incomplete	No release history has been documented for this site.
Inhalation – Indoor Air (vapor intrusion)	Pathway Incomplete	No release history has been documented for this site.
Groundwater Ingestion	Exposure Controlled	The site and the upgradient site (SS017) have interim Land Use Controls in effect that prohibit the installation of drinking water wells.

Pathway	Result	Explanation
Surface Water Ingestion	Pathway Incomplete	No release history has been documented for this site. There is no surface water contamination.
Wild and Farmed Foods Ingestion	Pathway Incomplete	No release history has been documented for this site and no surface contamination has been detected during site investigations.
Exposure to Ecological Receptors	Pathway Incomplete	No release history has been documented for this site. There are no concerns with regard to exposure to ecological receptors.

### ADEC Decision

Site Characterization is complete for this site. The investigations to date have adequately characterized soil and groundwater at the site. No petroleum contamination has been identified on this site that would pose a potential risk to human health or the environment. The work was completed in accordance with applicable sections of the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) Title 18, Chapter 75 (18 AAC 75). Based on the available information, ADEC has determined that no further assessment or cleanup action is required for Site SS021. Identified groundwater contamination is being addressed through an approved cleanup plan for Site SS017.

Based on these findings, Site SS021 will be designated as "Non-Qualifying" and the site will be listed as "closed" in the Department's Contaminated Sites database.

This determination is in accordance with the applicable sections of 18 AAC 75. The determination does not preclude ADEC 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.

If you have questions about this determination, please contact me at (907) 451-2180, or via email at [dennis.shepard@alaska.gov](mailto:dennis.shepard@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

Dennis Shepard  
Project Manager

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