

STATE OF ALASKA

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

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

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File: 1527.38.010

June 26, 2006

Mr. Tuck Harry
P.O. Box 56
Tenakee Springs, AK 99841

Re: Pollution Incident Complaint
Tenakee Springs Tank Farm and Power Plant
Contaminated Sites Database #2006110114501; Ledger Code # 14161060

This letter is to acknowledge your contact with the DEC on March 30, 2006 to report a possible pollution incident that may have occurred in the road right-of-way adjacent to your residence, because of actions taken by representatives or contractors for the City of Tenakee Springs. You expressed concern that oily soil could affect the health of your garden and pollute your well water. The State & Private Contaminated Sites Program (CS) investigated the public record of oil spills and contaminated sites in Tenakee Springs and found no data to support those concerns.

On May 2, 2006, you contacted the DEC with concerns that the City of Tenakee was spreading material on public roads that originated at the site of a former bulk fuel tank farm. You informed the DEC that, in 2003, material in the footprint of the tank farm was screened for petroleum with a photoionization detector (PID) by Carson Dorn, Inc. (CDI), a private contractor for the City of Tenakee Springs. Results of the screening of soil from 20 soil borings found that petroleum odor and sheen were observed in most samples. PID data in those 16 samples showed results averaging 20ppm. In CDI professional judgment the results represented exceedences of the 18 AAC 75.341, Method Two migration to groundwater cleanup level for Diesel Range Hydrocarbons of 230ppm.

DEC discussed events that took place in 2003 with CDI, who stated they had delivered a copy of the Limited Site Investigation Report to the DEC. CS apparently had advised the City of Tenakee that, if left in place, the contaminated material was unlikely to represent a threat to human health or the environment. Record of the correspondence between the City of Tenakee and the CS is not available at this time, but anecdotal evidence indicates that the City of Tenakee Springs and contractors working on the bulk fuel tank farm project were aware that petroleum contamination was likely present in excess of regulatory standards in soil at the site.

On May 3, 2006, the DEC spoke by telephone with Art Bloom, the Mayor of Tenakee Springs. Mayor Bloom confirmed that the City of Tenakee had excavated soil from the tank farm and power plant property and used the material as fill in public road right-of-way. Mayor Bloom confirmed that he was aware of the CDI 2003 Site Investigation results and the DEC had received complaints from several residents, but in his opinion the claims were unfounded. The DEC informed Mayor Bloom that based on the 2003 CDI data, a Site Assessment of the tank farm and power plant property was necessary. The DEC had staff scheduled to spend a day in Tenakee Springs and an offer was made to collect soil samples at the tank farm excavation site for laboratory analysis to contribute to a more extensive investigation of the tank farm property at a later time. Mayor Bloom agreed with the plan and the sampling took place on May 11, 2006; results of the laboratory analysis are pending.

On May 4, 2006, Tracy Rivera, a homeowner in Tenakee Springs contacted the DEC to report that he had observed petroleum sheen on soil used as fill material between houses in the road right-of-way in a residential section of town. He stated that dogs in town were tracking oily dirt on their feet into houses, causing irritation to the dogs and homeowners.

On May 11, 2006, CS Project Manager Bruce Wanstall supplied a soil sampling plan and kit to Southeast Area Response Team staff that traveled to the site that morning. Rebecca Marjerison collected soil samples in the right-of-way adjacent to the Harry residence and at the edge of where the fill material was reportedly transported from. The latter location is below the bulk fuel tank farm and serves as an access road to the construction site of a new bulk fuel tank farm being conducted by the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA).

On May 25, 2006, the DEC spoke by telephone with Vice Mayor Bill Eberhart to inform the City of Tenakee that DEC/CS had listed the tank farm on the Contaminated Sites Database and the DEC would send the City of Tenakee Springs a letter requesting a Site Investigation of the tank farm property and the right-of-way properties, where petroleum contaminated material may have been placed in violation of State petroleum regulation. The DEC stated that it would seek a cooperative approach to resolving pollution issues and disputes in the community. On the same day the DEC contacted Dave Lockhart, the project manager for AEA, to inform him that a Site Assessment of the old bulk fuel tank farm site is requested by the DEC and to request that he assist the City of Tenakee in the Site Assessment. Mr. Lockhart confirmed that he was aware of the 2003 Site Investigation before the new tank farm project began but, in agreement with Mayor Bloom, his opinion was that petroleum contaminated soil had not been transported from the tank farm property.

On June 26, 2006, DEC received laboratory results for the May 11, 2006, soil sampling conducted by DEC staff in Tenakee Springs. Soil samples collected at the surface along the side of the right-of-way adjacent to the Harry residence contained concentrations of 300 mg/kg and 630 mg/kg diesel range hydrocarbons (DRO). Samples collected from the roadside at the base of the tank farm access road, presumably from where the fill material next to the Harry residence came from, contained DRO concentrations of 220 mg/kg and 55 mg/kg. Pursuant to 18 AAC 75.340, Table B2, the soil screening concentration for DRO for the migration to groundwater pathway in the over 40 inch per year zone, applicable to the Tenakee Springs sites is 230mg/kg.

The DEC has sent the City of Tenakee Springs a letter requesting that Site Assessment be conducted on the areas of concern; you are copied on that letter. If you have concerns or questions concerning this matter, please contact me at 907-465-5210 or by email at Bruce_Wanstall@dec.state.ak.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Wanstall", written in a cursive style.

Bruce Wanstall
Project Manager, Field Operations
State & Private Contaminated Sites Program

cc: Lindsay Wolter, DOL via email
Jim Frechione, Program Manager via email
Mayor Art Bloom, City of Tenakee Springs