



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of Environmental  
Conservation**

Division of Spill Prevention and Response  
Contaminated Sites Program

610 University Ave.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3643  
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File: 100.38.033

November 17, 2014

Pamela Johnson  
2717 Chief Alexander Drive  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4864

Re: Henson Subdivision (Kiser's Laundry) Contaminated Site  
Hazard ID 4681

Dear Ms. Johnson:

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is requesting an update regarding the above referenced property that has been identified as a contaminated site with the DEC's Contaminated Sites Program. You have been identified as a potentially responsible party as the current property owner. This letter and enclosures include a summary of the statutes and regulations outlining your responsibilities and identifies the DEC project manager assigned to work with you to evaluate cleanup progress.

### **Background**

According to our records, the Henson Subdivision Property is located at the intersection of Dennis and Holmes Road east of Badger Road in North Pole (1051 Holmes Road in the Fairbanks North Star Borough Geographic Information System), and is listed by DEC as a contaminated site. The subject property has several areas of potential contamination including a former commercial laundry building; a former refuse dump; an area that in 1988 had 35 leaking drums of waste solvent stored on it; and areas of concern that may have contributed to contamination. In 1993 and 1994, soil and groundwater samples were collected and they indicated soil contamination of Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) and groundwater detections of benzene and cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene. According to the file, most of the potential sources of contamination on the site are no longer in operation.

DEC contacted Roy (Gus) Johnson in 2006, and again in 2008, regarding the nature and extent of the contamination that may remain at the site; Mr. Johnson indicated an environmental professional may perform an evaluation of the site, but no further information has since been provided to DEC. DEC believes limited sampling may be appropriate to confirm whether any of the contaminants suspected in the area are a potential hazard to human health. In order to evaluate any potential risks to human health and to make a determination regarding the environmental status of this property, ADEC is requesting that current sample data be collected.

If you are unable to afford an environmental professional to conduct any site investigations on your property, please let DEC know. DEC is interested in discussing with you options for investigation of this site.

## Responsibilities

The responsibility for a spill is established by State law. The owner or operator that caused a spill is responsible for its cleanup (Alaska Statute 46.03.822). However, if the party that causes a release is not the owner of the property, and they are not willing or able to conduct the necessary cleanup, the landowner is liable for cleanup action. If you believe that another party is responsible for the contamination (e.g., a past owner or operator of the site), please provide this information to the DEC as soon as possible.

State law requires DEC to recover costs associated for its oversight from the responsible parties (Alaska Statute 46.04.010 and Alaska Statute 46.08.070). This includes the direct cost of staff time plus indirect state overhead costs. Staff time includes site visits, response and report reviews, correspondence, telephone conversations, meetings, and legal services.

## Cleanup Process

DEC is required by law to ensure that oil and hazardous substance spills are addressed in accordance with State standards. Although there is some flexibility in how each cleanup project is managed, assessment and cleanup actions must be performed by a “qualified person” who meets minimum regulatory qualifications. To help with selecting professional services we enclosed the *Selecting an Environmental Consultant* fact sheet, which provides suggestions for hiring a qualified person.

To help clarify the steps involved, we also enclosed the *Cleanup Process* fact sheet, which summarizes the major elements of Alaska’s Contaminated Sites Regulations. Due to the complex nature of these standards, staff are available to offer assistance in understanding the requirements and implementing necessary investigation and cleanup actions. Again, if you are unable to afford an environmental consultant, please contact me to discuss demonstrating your “inability to pay.”

The administrative file for this site is available in our Fairbanks office for your review. Additionally, the cleanup actions taken at this site are accessible to the public and can be viewed on the DEC contaminated sites database at <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/csp/search/default.asp>.

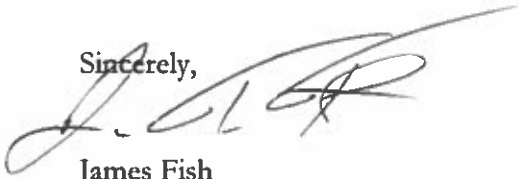
## DEC’s Request

DEC is requesting an update regarding the following elements as they apply to your site:

- Summary of any cleanup work planned or completed.
- Status of contaminated soil or groundwater.
- Any new observed changes in site conditions, such as observed surface sheens, odors, etc.
- Land use changes such as new construction, excavations, or water wells.
- Change of property ownership.
- Inability to pay for an environmental professional to conduct a site investigation on your property.

I am the DEC Project Manager assigned to this site, and you may contact me [james.fish@alaska.gov](mailto:james.fish@alaska.gov), (907) 451-2117, or at 610 University Ave., Fairbanks, AK 99709. Please contact me with an update within 30 days from receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Fish', written over a horizontal line.

James Fish  
Environmental Program Specialist

Enclosure:     *Cleanup Process* Fact Sheet  
                  *Selecting an Environmental Consultant* Fact Sheet