



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Environmental Conservation

SPILL PREVENTION & RESPONSE
Contaminated Sites Program

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Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
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www.dec.alaska.gov

File: 100.38.033

August 21, 2020

Mike Fillingim
2717 Chief Alexander Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99709

RE: Henson Subdivision (former Kiser's)

Dear Mr. Fillingim:

Thank you for contacting and meeting with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) staff to determine a path forward to address spills at the contaminated site listed under the name "Henson Subdivision (Former Kiser's)".

On July 22, 2020 ADEC staff met with you to observe current conditions at the site and to discuss what is needed to complete cleanup activities. You indicated that your financial resources are limited, and you do not feel the contamination is as extensive as implied by past reports. The ADEC file documents several areas of surface staining where soil sampling in October of 1993 showed elevated levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons. Since samples collected from these stained areas were not from depths greater than six inches, the depth of impacted soil has not been determined. The surface stained areas were no longer visible during our July 2020 site visit.

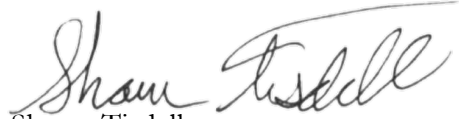
Based on the contaminated site regulations (18 AAC 75), additional work will be needed before this site can obtain a cleanup complete determination. We request that you select an Environmental Consultant (see attachment) to evaluate if soil contamination remains in the previously identified locations where the staining had been observed and determine how much and to what degree impacted soil remains. We request that one of the drinking water wells nearest the eastern shop be sampled. If it can be demonstrated by soil and well sampling that the contamination is no longer present or remains near the surface below applicable cleanup levels, then there should be enough evidence for the ADEC to consider site closure. If contamination is discovered above these levels, then the volume and accessibility of the contamination can be discussed to determine if additional action is necessary.

Floor drains that were observed in the east shop may be considered Class V motor vehicle waste disposal wells, which are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is the responsibility of the landowner to report injection wells to the Environmental Protection Agency. Contact information for Class V injections wells in Alaska is: Derek Schruhl

(schruhl.derek@epa.gov), EPA Region 10 UIC Program, 1200 Sixth Ave., Suite 155, 20-C04, Seattle, WA 98101.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 907-451-2752 or send an email to shawn.tisdell@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,



Shawn Tisdell
Environmental Program Specialist

Attachments/links: Selecting an Environmental Consultant/

- <http://dec.alaska.gov/media/15571/selecting-consultant.pdf>

EPA Underground Injection Control link:

<https://www.epa.gov/uic/underground-injection-control-region-10-ak-id-or-id-and-wa>

cc (via email): Janice Wieggers, ADEC



Contaminated Sites Program

Fact Sheet

Our mission: "Protecting human health and the environment by managing the cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater in Alaska"

(Current as of July 2015)

Selecting an Environmental Consultant

Investigating and cleaning up a release of petroleum or other hazardous substances can be expensive. Selecting an unqualified or inexperienced environmental consultant to do the work, however, may end up costing even more.

Asking questions and checking references is essential. A competent consultant will help you define the problem and develop solutions that are protective, in compliance with environmental regulations, and cost-effective.

Your consulting team should have:

- A thorough understanding of Alaska's environmental cleanup regulations, related laws, and guidance documents.
- Experience in projects that are similar to yours in scope and nature.
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written.

1. Where to Begin

After a hazardous substance discharge is discovered and reported, the first step is to compile all the information you can about the property, including the history of operations at the site, potential sources of contamination, and any company or personal records on where and how hazardous substances have been used or stored.

Prepare a brief, written description of the site, including current use, the problem as you understand it, and the potential work that may need to be done. Providing as much information as you can will enable consulting firms to give you more consistent and accurate estimates. This can save you time and money.

DEC cannot recommend specific consultants, but we can refer you to other parties that have participated



Lead paint is removed from concrete prior to demolition at a site in King Salmon, Alaska

in cleanup projects who may be willing to share their experiences with you.

2. Initial Contacts

Next, put together a list of companies that perform contaminated site characterization or cleanup work in that area. Companies can be found in the yellow pages under headings such as "Engineers - Environmental," or "Environmental and Ecological Services."

Contact several of the companies and inquire about their experience, training, fees, and insurance coverage to determine which company best suits your needs.

The firm you select should demonstrate that it is capable and has qualified staff on board who will be available when you want the work done.

Ask the consulting firm to estimate the time needed to complete the work required and how they might phase the work to fit your budget and your plans for the site. Keep in mind that environmental investigations often turn up new information that may change the scope, adding both cost and time to the project.

3. Questions to Ask Prospective Consultants

- What projects have they managed in the past?
- How similar are the projects to yours?
- Are they qualified to do the full scope of work you require, or would they need to team with another company?
- Who serves as their subcontractors for services such as excavation, monitoring well installation, laboratory, or other services?
- Who would manage your project?
- What is their experience in working with
- DEC or other regulating agencies, and do their site work staff meet DEC's requirements for "qualified environmental professional and qualified sampler?" (see: dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/qep.htm#qep)
- What potential impact will your project have on customers, neighbors, or traffic?

4. Check References!

Checking references is probably the most important part of the selection process. Before choosing a consulting firm, it is critical to talk with businesses the firm cites as references.

Some questions you may want to ask include:

- Were you satisfied with your consultant's work?
- Did you have any concerns about the firm's performance or fees?
- What specific staff members were on your team?
- Was your project completed on time and within budget?
- Did you encounter any unexpected delays or staff turnover? If so, were these handled to your satisfaction?
- Did the firm have to "re-do" any part of your project because it wasn't done adequately the first time?
- Did the consultant effectively communicate with DEC and respond in a timely matter to DEC's concerns?
- Did the consultant offer and explain available options for site cleanup and investigation?

5. Last Step: Request Proposals

After your discussions with prospective consultants, re-visit your project summary and refine what services you believe you require. Using that as a basis, ask for proposals from firms or individuals that

you believe will best meet your needs.

Proposals you review should include a scope of work, staff resumes, an estimated work schedule, anticipated costs and related fees, estimated total project cost with an itemized fee schedule, and references.

For some small projects, such as a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, the consultant may provide only a lump-sum amount. You must decide if you are comfortable with the level of detail provided and the total cost—don't be afraid to request additional information if you have any questions about the cost!

Make sure the estimated work schedule also includes time for DEC review and approval.

Here are some things to watch out for in reviewing proposals:

- Bids significantly lower than those of competing firms,
- "Hard sell" approaches,
- Minimizing or maximizing potential technical or legal problems,
- Strong biases toward or against certain investigation techniques or cleanup alternatives,
- Conflicts of interest, and
- Overly optimistic timelines.

Interviewing prospective consultants, checking their references, and reviewing their proposals will help you make an informed decision about which consultant to hire for your project.

For more information

Contact DEC's Contaminated Sites Program:

Anchorage: (907) 269-7503

Kenai: (907) 262-5210

Fairbanks: (907) 451-2143

Juneau: (907) 465-5390

Soldotna: (907) 262-5210

Or visit our website at:

www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp