



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Environmental
Conservation**

DIVISION OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE
Contaminated Sites Program

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File: 630.38.004

December 07, 2020

Aemon Wetmore
FAA Alaska Region
222 West 7th Avenue, #14
Anchorage, AK 99513-7587

Re: Decision Document: FAA Unalakleet AWOS_DF
Cleanup Complete Determination

Dear Mr. Wetmore:

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Contaminated Sites Program (ADEC) has completed a review of the environmental records associated with the FAA Unalakleet AWOS_DF, located in Unalakleet, Alaska. This letter specifically addresses the Building 409 source area (ID 75198), associated with the FAA Unalakleet AWOS_DF contaminated site. The other source areas associated with this site, East and West Spill Areas (ID 79775), were previously closed as documented by ADEC letter dated July 2, 2015. Based on the information provided to date, it has been determined that the contaminant concentrations remaining on site do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment and no further remedial action will be required unless new information becomes available that indicates residual contaminants may pose an unacceptable risk.

This Cleanup Complete determination is based on the administrative record for the FAA Unalakleet AWOS_DF, which is located in the ADEC office in Fairbanks, Alaska. This decision letter summarizes the site history, cleanup actions and levels, and standard site closure conditions that apply.

Site Name and Location:

FAA Unalakleet AWOS_DF
Latitude: 63.884944
Longitude: -160.791684
Unalakleet, Alaska

Name and Mailing Address of Contact Party:

Aemon Wetmore
FAA Alaska Region
222 West 7th Ave., #14
Anchorage, AK 99513-7587

DEC Site Identifiers:

File No.: 630.38.004
Hazard ID.: 4232
Source Area: 75198 – Building 409

Regulatory Authority for Determination:

18 AAC 75

Site Description and Background

Unalakleet is located in eastern Norton Sound, approximately 148 miles southeast of Nome and 395 miles northwest of Anchorage. Permafrost is expected to be largely present, except near streams and along the Unalakleet River.

The FAA (formerly Civil Aeronautics Administration) has maintained and operated a station in Unalakleet since 1942. An environmental compliance investigation was performed at the Unalakleet FAA Facility in 1991 by the FAA. The results of this investigation were presented in the Environmental Compliance Investigation Report (ECIR) prepared in 1992, which identified, among others, the AWOS_DF – Building 409 as a potential source of contamination.

The parcel on which the AWOS_DF was located is approximately 4 acres in size, and is leased from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. The AWOS_DF consisted of a fiberglass building, a weather station, an active oil transformer, a utility pole, and a weather station tower painted with lead-based paint. An empty abandoned 10,000-gallon above ground storage tank (AST) was documented in 1992 east of the DF building, approximately 380 feet from the Kougwegok Slough, but was removed sometime before the 2007 investigation. Two spill areas (East Spill and West Spill, included in Source Area 79775) are not known to be associated with the tank and were issued No Further Action Determinations in 2015.

Characterization and Cleanup Activities

Characterization and cleanup activities at the Unalakleet FAA facilities included an Environmental Restoration Work Plan in 1994, an Underground Storage Tank Decommissioning Assessment in 1997, a 2000 Release Investigation (RI), a 2008 RI, and a 2017 Decommissioning, Remediation, and Site Investigation.

No contamination has been identified at the DF Building 409. Prior to removal of the main tower, potential lead impacts were evaluated in soils beneath the main tower. Lead concentrations were non-detect in soils beneath the tower. All other infrastructure has been removed from the immediate area.

ADEC Decision

Soil contamination remaining at Building 409 is below the approved cleanup levels suitable for residential land use. The FAA Unalakleet AWOS_DF contaminated site, along with all associated source areas, will receive a “Cleanup Complete” designation on the Contaminated Sites Database, subject to the standard conditions below.

Standard Conditions

1. Any proposal to transport soil or groundwater from a site that is subject to the site cleanup rules or for which a written determination from the department has been made under 18 AAC 75.380(d)(1) that allows contamination to remain at the site above method two soil cleanup levels or groundwater cleanup levels listed in Table C requires DEC approval in accordance with 18 AAC 75.325(i). A “site”, as defined by 18 AAC 75.990 (115), means an area that is contaminated, including areas contaminated by the migration of hazardous substances from a source area, regardless of property ownership.

2. Movement or use of contaminated material in a manner that results in a violation of 18 AAC 70 water quality standards is prohibited.
3. Groundwater throughout Alaska is protected for use as a water supply for drinking, culinary and food processing, agriculture including irrigation and stock watering, aquaculture, and industrial use. Contaminated site cleanup complete determinations are based on groundwater being considered a potential drinking water source. In the event that groundwater from this site is to be used for other purposes in the future, such as aquaculture, additional testing and treatment may be required to ensure the water is suitable for its intended use.

This determination is in accordance with 18 AAC 75.380 and does not preclude ADEC from requiring additional assessment and/or cleanup action if future information indicates that contaminants at this site may pose an unacceptable risk to human health, safety, or welfare or to the environment.

Appeal

Any person who disagrees with this decision may request an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 18 AAC 15.195 – 18 AAC 15.340 or an informal review by the Division Director in accordance with 18 AAC 15.185. Informal review requests must be delivered to the Division Director, 555 Cordova Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2617, within 20 days after receiving the department's decision reviewable under this section. Adjudicatory hearing requests must be delivered to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, 410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303, P.O. Box 111800, Juneau, Alaska 99811-1800, within 30 days after the date of issuance of this letter, or within 30 days after the department issues a final decision under 18 AAC 15.185. If a hearing is not requested within 30 days, the right to appeal is waived.

If you have questions about this closure decision, please feel free to contact me at (907) 451-2166, or email at kelly.walker@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

Kelly Walker
Project Manager

cc: Spill Prevention and Response, Cost Recovery Unit
Eric Breitenberger, DEC
Kara Kusche, DEC