



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: 2548.38.001

July 8, 2021

**Electronic Delivery Only**

Aemon Wetmore  
Federal Aviation Administration  
222 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Box 14  
Anchorage, AK 99513-7587

Subject: **Decision Document: No Further Action**  
Lead Contaminated AOCs at FAA Farewell Station  
Commissary Building 200, Building 300, Garage Building 301, and Building 600

Dear Mr. Wetmore,

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Contaminated Sites Program (ADEC) has completed a review of the environmental records associated with lead contamination at four areas of concern (AOCs) at the FAA Farewell Station: Commissary Building 200, Building 300, Garage Building 301, and Building 600. Based on the information provided to date, contaminant concentrations remaining at the above-listed AOCs do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. No further remedial action will be required unless information becomes available that indicates residual contamination may pose an unacceptable risk. This determination is limited to lead contamination only at Commissary Building 200, Building 300, Garage Building 301, and Building 600 (Lead Contaminated AOCs). The FAA Farewell Station site will remain active until cleanup is completed at all AOCs.

This No Further Action determination is based on the administrative record for Commissary Building 200, Building 300, Garage Building 300, and Building 600 at FAA Farewell Station, 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 Farewell Station  
McGrath, Alaska  
62°30'21.8"N, 153°53'45.2"W

**Name and Mailing Address of Contact Party:**

Aemon Wetmore  
Federal Aviation Administration  
222 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Box 14  
Anchorage, AK 99513-7587

**DEC Site Identifiers:**File No.: 2548.38.001, Hazard ID 1873<sup>1</sup>

- Commissary Building 200
- Building 300
- Garage Building 301
- Building 600

**Regulatory Authority for Determination:**

18 AAC 75

**Site Description and Background**

The former FAA Farewell Station is located approximately 160 miles northwest of Anchorage and 63.5 miles southeast of McGrath. The station became operational in 1942. All of the FAA Farewell structures have been demolished and FAA no longer maintains the former station. The runway serves as an emergency landing site and is widely used during hunting season.

Commissary Building 200

Building 200 (Figure 1) was a commissary building located approximately 100 feet east of Building 300. The building and its associated concrete foundation were demolished in 2004. Lead-based paint chips were removed from the slab and following slab removal, four surface soil samples were collected around the perimeter of the former building and analyzed for lead. Lead was detected at a maximum concentration of 6,090 mg/kg in a sample collected on the south side of the former building.

A 515-gallon heating oil was also located on the north-northwest side of Building 200. On January 13, 2017, DEC issued a cleanup complete determination for petroleum contamination associated with the former aboveground storage tank (AST) at Building 200.

Building 300

Building 300 (Figure 1) was a 1,036 square foot single-story wood-framed building located approximately 50 feet west of Building 104. A 363-foot deep drinking water well was located inside Building 300.

In 2004, Building 300 was demolished, along with the associated concrete foundation and drinking water well. After demolition, four surface soil samples were collected around the building perimeter and analyzed for total lead. Two of the samples exceeded the applicable cleanup level of 400 mg/kg, with a maximum concentration of 2,390 mg/kg.

A 515-gallon heating oil AST (74-A-006) was located on the southeast side of the Building 300. On January 13, 2017, DEC issued a cleanup complete determination for petroleum contamination associated with the former AST at Building 300.

Garage Building 301

Building 301 (Figure 2) was a Garage Building located approximately 50 feet south of Building 203. Building 301 and its concrete foundation were removed in 2004. Yellow lead-based paint chips were removed up to three feet from the building footprint. Four surface soil samples were collected from the perimeter of Building 301 and analyzed for total lead. Lead was detected at a maximum concentration of 1,520 mg/kg in a sample collected on the north side of Building 301

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<sup>1</sup> These four AOCs are identified by DEC as Source Area 80746, Lead Contaminated AOCs B200, B300, B301, and B600

Three ASTs were also located at Building 301. On January 13, 2017, DEC issued a cleanup complete determination for petroleum contamination associated with the former ASTs at Building 301.

### Building 600

Building 600 (Figure 2) was located approximately 25 feet north of Building 203 and served as a shop/powerhouse. Building 600 and its concrete foundation were demolished in 2004. At the time of demolition, loose lead-based paint chips were removed from the concrete slab and four surface soil samples were collected from the perimeter of the former building. Lead was detected at a maximum concentration of 965 mg/kg. Samples collected on the north and east side of the building exceeded the applicable Table B1 cleanup level.

A dry well located on the south side of the building was used to collect discharges from the floor drain located inside the building below the vehicle maintenance shop. The dry well consisted of a 5-foot square crib with no bottom. Two ASTs, several 55-gallon drums containing used oil and fuels, and a five-foot square dry well were also associated with Building 600. On January 13, 2017, DEC issued a cleanup complete determination for the dry well and petroleum contamination associated with the former ASTs and drums at Building 600.

### **Contaminants of Concern**

This determination applies only to lead contamination at the AOCs listed above.

### **Cleanup Levels**

The following 18 AAC 75 cleanup levels apply at FAA Farewell:

- Table B1 Under 40-Inch Zone Human Health soil cleanup levels
- Table C Groundwater Cleanup Levels

The applicable cleanup levels and residual concentrations at the four AOCs are summarized in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 – Approved Cleanup Levels and Maximum Concentrations in Soil**

Contaminant	Table B1 Under 40" Zone Human Health (mg/kg)	Maximum Remaining Lead Concentrations (mg/kg)	
		Lead	400
Building 300	350		
Garage Building 301	80		
Building 600	92		

mg/kg = milligrams per kilogram

### **Characterization and Cleanup Activities**

In 2018, a remedial action was conducted at Building 200, Building 300, Building 301, and Building 600.

At Building 200, approximately three cubic yards (CY) of lead-impacted soil was removed from the northern excavation area measuring 9 feet by 7 feet and 1 foot deep. Two CY of lead-impacted soil was

removed from the southern excavation area measuring 10 feet by 10 feet and 1 foot deep. Due to the shallow depth of the excavation, one ft. bgs, sidewall samples were not collected. One decision unit (DU) was established that included the floor of both excavation areas. Samples were analyzed for total lead. The maximum lead concentration of the triplicate was 170 mg/kg.

At Building 300, approximately two CY of lead-impacted soil was removed from the northern excavation area measuring 8 feet by 8 feet and 1 foot deep, and another two CY of lead-impacted soil was removed from the southern excavation area measuring 9 feet by 8 feet and 1 foot deep. Following soil removal ISM was used to collect confirmation samples, in triplicate, from the limits of the two excavation areas. Due to the shallow depth of the excavation, one ft. bgs, sidewall samples were not collected. One DU was established that included the floor of both excavation areas. Samples were analyzed for total lead. The maximum lead concentration of the triplicate was 350 mg/kg.

At Building 301, approximately two CY of lead-impacted soil was removed from the northern excavation area measuring 8 feet by 8 feet and 1 foot deep, and five CY of lead-impacted soil was removed from the southern excavation area measuring 19 feet by 7 feet and 1 foot deep. Following soil removal ISM was used to collect confirmation samples, in triplicate, from the limits of the two excavation areas. Due to the shallow depth of the excavation, one ft. bgs, sidewall samples were not collected. One DU was established that it encompassed the floor of both excavation areas. Samples were analyzed for total lead. The maximum lead concentration of the triplicate was 80 mg/kg.

At Building 600, approximately two CY of lead-impacted soil was removed from the northern excavation area measuring 9 feet by 7 feet and 1 foot deep, and two CY of lead-impacted soil was removed from the east excavation area measuring 8 feet by 8 feet and 1 foot deep. Following soil removal ISM was used to collect confirmation samples, in triplicate, from the limits of the two excavation areas. Due to the shallow depth of the excavation, one ft. bgs, sidewall samples were not collected. One DU was established that it encompassed the floor of both excavation areas. Samples were analyzed for total lead. The maximum lead concentration of the triplicate was 92 mg/kg.

### **Cumulative Risk Evaluation**

Pursuant to 18 AAC 75.325(g), when detectable contamination remains on-site following a cleanup, a cumulative risk determination must be made that the risk from hazardous substances does not exceed a cumulative carcinogenic risk standard of 1 in 100,000 across all exposure pathways and does not exceed a cumulative non-carcinogenic risk standard at a hazard index of one across all exposure pathways.

Based on a review of the environmental record, ADEC has determined that residual lead concentrations from Commissary Building 200, Building 300, Garage Building 301, and Building 600 meet the human health cumulative risk criteria for residential land use.

### **Exposure Pathway Evaluation**

Following investigation and cleanup at the site, exposure to the remaining contaminants was 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 or Pathway Incomplete. A summary of this pathway evaluation is included in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Exposure Pathway Evaluation**

<b>Pathway</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Explanation Former Buildings 200, 300, 301, and 600</b>
Surface Soil Contact	De Minimis Exposure	Residual lead contamination associated with lead paint is present in the surface. Lead concentrations do not exceed the Table B1 Human Health Cleanup Level.
Sub-Surface Soil Contact	Pathway Incomplete	Lead contamination associated with paint chips has not been detected in subsurface soil.
Inhalation – Outdoor Air	Pathway Incomplete	Volatile contaminants are not present in soil.
Inhalation – Indoor Air (vapor intrusion)	Pathway Incomplete	The structures at FAA Farewell Station have been demolished.
Groundwater Ingestion	Pathway Incomplete	There is no groundwater contamination associated with lead-based paint chips at FAA Farewell Station.
Surface Water Ingestion	Pathway Incomplete	There is no surface water at the FAA Farewell site.
Wild and Farmed Foods Ingestion	Pathway Incomplete	Residual contamination does not exceed the Table B1 Human Health cleanup level.
Exposure to Ecological Receptors	Pathway Incomplete	There are no additional ecological concerns associated with lead-based paint at former Buildings 200, 300, 301, and 600.

**Notes to Table 2:** “De Minimis Exposure” means that in ADEC’s judgment receptors are unlikely to be adversely affected by the minimal volume or concentration of remaining contamination. “Pathway Incomplete” means that in ADEC’s judgment contamination has no potential to contact receptors.

### **ADEC Decision**

Soil lead contamination at the Commissary Building 200, Building 300, Garage Building 301, and Building 600 AOCs of the FAA Farewell Station have been cleaned up to concentrations below the approved cleanup levels suitable for residential land use. The Commissary Building 200, Building 300, Garage Building 301, and Building 600 will receive “No Further Action” designations for lead contamination on the Contaminated Sites Database, subject to the following standard conditions. The FAA Farewell Station site will remain open until all areas of concern tracked under this file number have reached cleanup complete status.

### **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. (See attached site figures.)

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 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) 451-5175 or via email at [jamie.mckellar@alaska.gov](mailto:jamie.mckellar@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,



Jamie McKellar  
Project Manager

cc: Eric Breitenberger, DEC