



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Spill Prevention and Response

34 Mile Haines Highway Stockpile Cleanup

Contaminated Sites Program

Overview of the Site

In the early 2000s, 1,300 cubic yards of petroleum contaminated soil was moved from a decommissioned sawmill at Lutak Inlet to a Haines Borough-owned rock pit at mile 34 on the Haines Highway with the intention of incorporating the soil into asphalt for the Haines Highway reconstruction project. After the soil was moved, it was reported to Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) that the soil was not suitable for use in the asphalt mix due to the sawdust and woodchip content. The soil was never incorporated into the highway and remains at the rock pit today.



Photo - The stockpile of contaminated soil is located along the Haines Highway at mile 34.



Photo - An aerial photo of the stockpile showing the approximate footprint and locations where soil samples were taken.

Site Investigation

After it was determined the soil could not be used for the highway project, DEC approved Chilkoot Lumber Company's plan to treat the contaminated soil at the borough-owned rock pit in 2002. Samples were collected from the stockpile for lab analysis in 2006 and 2009. In November 2023, in coordination with the Haines Borough and Chilkat Indian Village, DEC staff collected soil samples from various depths of the stockpile to test for petroleum contamination. Sample results were compared to DEC cleanup levels that specify the highest concentration of a hazardous substance that may be left in soil or water without posing a threat to human health or the environment. The results showed concentrations exceeding DEC cleanup levels for diesel range organics (DRO) and residual range organics (RRO), with concentrations generally increasing at lower depths. DEC does not believe that direct contact with the top portion of the stockpile poses a health risk based on the concentrations found in the top 3 feet of the stockpile.

DEC Brownfields Program

The DEC Brownfields Program works with local governments, tribes, and community stakeholders by providing information, funding, technical assistance, and other resources to facilitate the assessment, cleanup, and reuse of sites hindered from desired reuse or redevelopment by real or perceived environmental contamination. In 2024, the Haines Borough applied for and was awarded DEC Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup services to conduct site characterization and cleanup planning activities for the stockpile.

Cleanup Alternatives for the Site

The primary goal of this project is to remediate the stockpile so that it can be managed without further risk or restriction on future site activities due to the presence of contaminated material. DEC worked with Chilkat Indian Village, the Haines Borough and the consulting firm NORTECH to prepare an Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) summarizing the data collected from previous site research, assessments, sampling efforts, and discussions to evaluate potential options for remediating the stockpile. Four cleanup alternatives are identified in the ABCA:

- **Alternative 1:** No Action
- **Alternative 2:** Landfarm onsite to levels acceptable for landfill beneficial use
- **Alternative 3:** Landfarm onsite to levels acceptable for unrestricted reuse
- **Alternative 4:** Offsite treatment at Bicknell landfarm in Juneau

DEC's preferred cleanup option is Alternative 3. The rationale for this preference is detailed in the ABCA.

What is landfarming?

Landfarming is an above-ground remediation technique for soils that reduces concentrations of petroleum constituents through biodegradation. For this project it would involve placing the soils in a treatment cell, then covering and uncovering the soil each spring and fall. Annual tilling would occur to ensure maximum oxygenation. Fertilizer or other amendments could be added as well to help the soil reach acceptable clean-up levels.

For More Information

Copies of the ABCA are available for review at the following locations:

Haines Borough Administration Office
103 3rd Ave
Haines, AK 99827

The DEC Brownfields Program website at:

<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/brownfields/assessment-cleanup/dbac-projects/haines-34-mile-abca/>

The ABCA will be part of the agenda for the May 15, 2025 Haines Borough Planning Commission meeting. DEC staff will attend the meeting to discuss the cleanup alternatives.

Scan the QR code to view the ABCA and submit comments



Submit comments to DEC

We are interested in hearing your feedback on the preferred cleanup alternative. DEC will accept public comments on the ABCA for the 34 Mile Haines Highway Stockpile from **May 8, 2025 until June 5, 2025**. Comments can be submitted online at the website above or by mail to:

DEC Contaminated Sites Program ATTN: Henry Leasia
PO Box 1535
Haines, AK 99827