

Sulfolane Update No. 19 – Upcoming open house, and sulfolane research report (9-30-10)

Dear Concerned Citizen,

1. You're invited to an Open House about sulfolane groundwater contamination issues in North Pole:

Open House on the Sulfolane Investigation and Cleanup
Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2010
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
North Pole Plaza Mall

The Technical Project Team guiding the investigation is sponsoring the meeting. You'll be able to talk to representatives for the Alaska departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and Health and Social Services (DHSS), Flint Hills Resources and other experts about the investigation and cleanup of the solvent, which was discovered in October 2009 in the well water of residents living near the Flint Hills refinery.

We'll have updates on what's been accomplished so far, the next steps, and the ongoing garden sampling project. We'll have informational materials and posters on the walls. We hope to see you there.

(The Technical Project Team, formed by DEC, is overseeing all aspects of Flint Hills' investigation and cleanup of the sulfolane groundwater contamination. The team has experts in toxicology, environmental chemistry, botany, hydrology and engineering. It includes representatives from the DEC, DHSS, City of North Pole, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Flint Hills, Williams (the refinery's previous owner) and specialized technical contractors for various aspects of the project.)

2. We've posted the "Sulfolane Technical Assistance and Evaluation Report" on DEC's North Pole sulfolane Web site, along with a non-technical two-page executive summary that should provide a quick overview. Here's the link:

<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/sites/north-pole-refinery/documents.htm#sulfo>.

(To get to DEC's North Pole sulfolane Web site, go to <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/sites/north-pole-refinery/>. Or go to alaska.gov, click on "Departments" in the gold ribbon at the top, then "Environmental Conservation." Then pull down to "Division of Spill Prevention & Response," and click on "Contaminated Sites" on the far right. Click on "North Pole sulfolane issue," which is in red text in the middle of the page.)

Thank you, and let us know if we can get you more information on anything.

Susan Erben
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<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/sites/north-pole-refinery/>

For more information:

- On contaminated sites, contact DEC: Ann Farris, (907) 451-2104, ann.farris@alaska.gov, Susan Erben, (907) 465-5206, susan.erben@alaska.gov or Denise Elston, (907) 465-5207, denise.elston@alaska.gov.
- On health-related information, contact Nim Ha, Division of Public Health, DHSS, (907) 269-8028, nim.ha@alaska.gov.
- On public water supplies, contact Cindy Christian, DEC, (907) 451-2138, cindy.christian@alaska.gov.
- On water testing or other refinery issues, contact Jeff Cook, Flint Hills, (907) 488-5104, jeff.cook@kochps.com.
- To go to DEC's North Pole sulfolane Web site: <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/sites/north-pole-refinery/>.

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