STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF SPILL PREVENTON AND RESPONSE
CONTAMINATED SITES PROGRAM

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May 9, 2008

To the People of Aniak,

We at the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) would like you to know that this May, people from the engineering firm Shannon & Wilson and their sub-contractors will begin working in Aniak to investigate and clean up contamination around the former White Alice Communications building, now the Joe Parent/Votech building. Their work is scheduled to take place during the summer, while the school is closed. Workers will be staying in Aniak during the project.

Some of the work will begin around May 19th, with equipment to be flown in. The remainder of the work will begin about June 1st, or after the river has broken up and the barge can access the landing. Shannon & Wilson's subcontracting firms are: B.C. Excavating, Inc. (earthwork); Emerald Alaska, Inc. (waste management); SGS Environmental Services (laboratory); and Del Norte, Inc. (surveying).

The overall project includes completing cleanup of the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) -contaminated soil, removing an old septic system that contains contaminants, and studying the extent of low-level trichloroethylene (TCE) (a solvent) contamination to determine whether any further action is needed to address the TCE. The project goals include cleaning up soil outside the building to our strictest levels, which provide for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure (for PCB this goal is 1 milligram/kilogram (mg/kg), or 1 part per million).

No cleanup is planned for soil in the crawl space beneath the computer room; that area is only accessed occasionally by workers and is considered a low occupancy area. The federal cleanup level for PCB in low occupancy areas is 25 mg/kg; all soil samples from the crawl space have contained less than 10 mg/kg PCB. Alaska soil cleanup levels allow between 1 and 10 mg/kg PCB if the area is capped and a deed notice is created to document the situation. Thus, the contract calls for placing a liner over the soil, placing a sign in the crawl space, and documenting the contamination and cap in the property records and land management records to ensure it is managed properly in the future.

DEC's Contaminated Sites Program has hired Shannon & Wilson to accomplish the following specific work in the area of the Joe Parent/Votech building:

1. Work will begin approximately May 19th with soil and groundwater sampling near the equipment shop and old septic system. Sampling performed in 2006 showed low levels of TCE in subsurface soil and groundwater. Additional sampling is being done this summer to help determine the potential source(s), extent and concentrations of TCE contamination.
2. During June and July, contractors will bring in equipment to dig up PCB-contaminated soil remaining outside of the Joe Parent/Votech building, by the Wood Shop. The concrete pad in this area will be broken up and tested to see if it contains PCBs. If it does, the concrete will be stored, along with the excavated contaminated soil, at the barge loading area until the wastes are shipped south for proper disposal. Clean soil will be used to backfill the excavation.

3. Contractors will also remove the old septic system next to the building, including a seepage pit, a suspected tank, the pipes, and any impacted soil. The 2006 sampling documented PCBs, metals and TCE in and around the septic system. The existing above-ground fuel pipelines will need to be temporarily removed to complete this work. Clean soil will be used to backfill the excavations.
4. Contractors will also resample inside the Votech building to see if any PCBs have been tracked into the building and to make sure the sealant on the floor of the Wood Shop room continues to serve as an adequate barrier over PCBs in the concrete floor.
5. Contractors will put a liner over the soil in the crawl space under the computer room, where low-level PCB contamination exists. A sign will be posted in the crawl space to alert workers in the future to not disturb the liner.

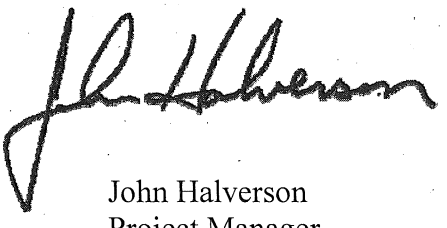
The contractors plan to build a temporary storage cell at the barge loading area on the Kuskokwim River for the bags of contaminated soil, septic system components, and any other potentially hazardous materials generated during the cleanup. Equipment operators will remove the soil and package it for transport to a permitted disposal facility in the Pacific Northwest. The cell will be lined and maintained to prevent any pollution at the storage site. Wastewater (from monitoring wells and from decontamination of sampling equipment) will be treated and discharged on-site. Non-hazardous materials will be disposed of at the Aniak landfill.

During the excavation and other activities, barricades and/or temporary fencing with warning signs will be installed at project access points to keep people who are not related to the work away from unsafe conditions. We ask for your cooperation with this.

We are glad to see this work take place. Contaminated cleanup can be a very time-consuming process, involving repeated sampling to make sure we know what contaminants are there and how far they extend. This project has been further complicated by the number of parties that are involved and liability issues. Our department will continue to seek to recover the costs of cleanup from the various potentially responsible parties.

We hope that the characterization and cleanup operations this summer will not disturb you. If you have questions or concerns about the work, please call me at 907-269-7545, or email me at john.halverson@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,



John Halverson
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