Program Overview

Program Name: Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Division of Spill Prevention and Response

Summary: The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Contaminated Sites Program (CSP) brownfields staff have developed resources to assist tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, city governments, and non-profit entities in identifying and assessing their brownfields sites.

Website: http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/brownfields/

Funding Source(s) for the Program: Federal funding

Cost to enter program or fees for service: There are no fees or cost recovery associated with brownfields assistance on eligible projects, which can include both assessment and cleanup services; however, DEC's Contaminated Sites Program is required to cost recover under statute.

Sites Enrolled in VCP: As of December 2024: 2,460

Sites Completed under VCP: As of December 2024: 5,897 listed sites are identified as having a status of cleanup complete.

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Assessment and Cleanup Funding

DEC works closely with communities across Alaska to identify, assess, and cleanup brownfields to put those properties back into productive use. By assisting Alaskan tribes, native corporations, municipalities, and non-profits in conducting environmental site assessments and cleanups at brownfield sites, DBAC services help identify and reduce the environmental uncertainties or improve actual conditions. Since 2004, DEC has provided over 200 technical services to its community and tribal partners to assist their projects navigate the brownfields development process.

DBAC Services May Include:

* Property Assessment and Cleanup Plans (PACPs)
* Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCAs)
* Phase I/Phase II Assessments
* Hazardous Building Materials (HBM) Surveys
* HBM Abatement
* Soil Excavation and Treatment

Liability Relief Provisions

The principal tool for providing liability relief is the Prospective Purchaser Agreement (PPA). PPA's are negotiated for specific sites that meet appropriate criteria, and where the existing site conditions were investigated and cleanup requirements established to an acceptable extent. A PPA is a legal instrument, which must be negotiated through the Alaska attorney general's office, designed to clarify the potential environmental liability a purchaser assumes when

buying a property with pre-existing environmental conditions.

Public Education and Outreach

The DEC Brownfields Program can assist entities to engage and inform their communities about brownfields in their area and plans for addressing them. Assistance includes developing community-specific outreach and training materials, reviewing brownfields project documents, explaining sampling results, insuring projects comply with relevant state cleanup regulations, and making connections to other potential funding resources and support opportunities. DEC Brownfields also can provide cleanup/reuse planning documents and present options and recommendations to local /tribal governments and organizations. In addition to providing this technical assistance, DEC Brownfields has also updated its Alaska Brownfields Handbook and a children's story booklet on their website under "Publications and Resources": DEC Brownfields Publications and Resources

Contaminants Managed

DEC has statutory authority over all releases to the land and waters of the state; however, DEC does not maintain a RCRA program and coordinates the management of hazardous waste with EPA oversight. Further, while the CSP addresses asbestos and lead paint as part of its brownfield assessments, the Contaminated Sites Program does not regulate asbestos containing materials or lead-based paint in buildings.

Asbestos: No

Lead: With Conditions - DEC has the statutory authority of lead when it is located in soil or groundwater.

PCBs: Yes

Petroleum and Fuels: Yes

Other Contaminants: Yes - Solvents, Metals, PFAS

Institutional Controls

Several years ago, the Alaska State legislature passed the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act (UECA). DEC continues working to establish and implement policies for the consistent use of environmental covenants on contaminated sites and maintaining a public record. DEC will, after consultation with each landowner of a site, determine whether the use of an IC is necessary as part of the cleanup process. ICs may be used on a site-specific basis, if DEC determines that controls are required to ensure compliance with an applicable cleanup level, protection of human health, safety or welfare, or the environment, or to maintain the integrity of site cleanup activities or improvements. ICs can be placed on an active site, or a site with a "cleanup complete" designation.

IC Tracking: The Contaminated Sites Program uses an IC tracker database module to manage the long-term oversight for contamination that poses limited risk to human health and the environment.

IC Oversight: The Contaminated Sites Program has a dedicated unit called the IC Unit that oversees the sites that have IC controls on them that are in cleanup complete status. It is the job of this unit to track the review periods and contact Responsible Parties regarding periodic reporting. Active sites with ICs are overseen by that site's project manager.

IC Monitoring: Currently, DEC monitors ICs on about 1,846 sites, of which approximately 286 are active sites where the controls have been established to protect human health and the environment during ongoing cleanup actions.