



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

National Ocean Service
Office of Response and Restoration
7600 Sand Point Way NE BIN C15700
Seattle, WA 98115-0070
Pribilof Project Office

23 November 1999

Ms. Debbie Bourdukofsky
P.O. Box 107
St. Paul, AK 99660

Re: Vehicle Removal at the Dune Site

Dear Ms. Bourdukofsky:

Located in a dune bowl north of Little Polovina lies a heap of approximately 14 old rusted vehicles. These vehicles are within a dune blowout, and surrounded by relatively steep walls that limit access of equipment necessary to haul them out (see photo below).



NOAA believes that to remove the vehicles, some portion of the dune wall will need to be leveled for equipment ingress and egress, even if the vehicles are cut up in place. Based on the removal of five vehicles outside the dune in



October 1999, NOAA recognizes that the secondary roads across the tundra to the site may be significantly rutted by the passage of heavy equipment. NOAA doesn't believe that the vehicles are causing any undue environmental damage, and because they are remotely situated and out of easy viewing, NOAA believes that the vehicles could be left in place without significant consequence.

The ultimate decision for the removal of the bulldozer lies with the landowner, Tanadgusix Corporation (TDX). However, NOAA and TDX are interested in the opinions of the various St. Paul RAB members and the community to assist in making the most appropriate decision. NOAA is seeking responses to the following proposals (please sign the line next to the option you prefer, or write in other suggestions on line 3, below):

I believe NOAA should:

1. leave the vehicles in place so as not to destroy the integrity of the dune bowl environment.

2. create a path to the site through the most direct and least damaging approach.

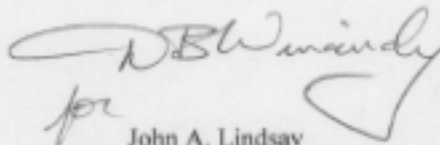
 - (a) remove the vehicles at any convenient time. _____
 - (b) remove the vehicles only when the tundra is frozen to minimize damage to access roads and tundra vegetation. _____
3. consider the following option (proposed by the recipient of this letter). _____
(Continue on reverse of page if you need more space.)

If any member is unfamiliar with the site, NOAA encourages the member to visit the site. NOAA is willing to accompany any members to the site, if appropriate in resolving this matter. Any visit should be coordinated with all interested members for the most efficient use of time.

NOAA would appreciate any response, including an expression of no opinion, within 30 days of the date of this letter. If RAB members and community residents decline to comment, then NOAA will work out a solution to the problem with the landowner, TDX.

To express your views, please call me at 206 526-4560; fax your response to me at (206) 526-6865; or mail your comments to me at the above address. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



John A. Lindsay
Pribilof Project Manager

cc: Richard Legatski, NOAA Legislative Affairs
Robert Taylor, NOAA DARC

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