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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

September 30, 2008

Mr. Michael J. Raabe
Department of the Air Force
Eielson Air Force Base
354 CES/CEAN
2310 Central Ave Ste 100
Eielson AFB, AK 99702-2299

Dear Mr. Raabe:

EPA Region 10 has reviewed the third Five-Year Review report for the Eielson AFB Superfund site located outside Fairbanks, Alaska. EPA reviewed this report for technical adequacy, accuracy, and consistency with EPA guidance.

Based on the results of the Five-Year Review, EPA concurs with the protectiveness determinations in the Five-Year Review report, which were as follows:

- Operable Units 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 are expected to be protective of human health and the environment when complete, and in the interim exposure pathways that could potentially pose unacceptable risks are being controlled;
- Operable Unit 4 is protective in the Short Term. It currently protects human health through the actions that have been taken and through Institutional Controls, however follow-up actions as described in the report are necessary to address long-term protectiveness as defined by USEPA Guidance;
- A protectiveness determination cannot be made for the Sitewide Operable Unit remedy at this time until further information is obtained for the remedy at the Garrison Slough area of the Operable Unit where PCB levels in fish tissue have not achieved remediation goals. Further information will be obtained by taking the following actions; (1) re-evaluate the risk assessment exposure assumptions; (2) investigate the possibility of other off-site sources of PCB contamination; and (3) evaluate the feasibility of additional remedial actions to further reduce PCB concentrations in Garrison Slough sediments, if appropriate.


An overall protectiveness determination for the Eielson AFB site cannot be made until this further information is obtained, a protectiveness determination is made for the Sitewide Operable Unit, and an addendum to this Five-Year Review report is prepared.

In addition, the Air Force will be following up on several other issues that do not immediately impact protectiveness but will require additional evaluation, specifically the timeframes expected to achieve remedial action objectives (RAOs) in groundwater and any potential vapor intrusion pathways. While institutional controls are in place to prevent exposure on source areas that continue to exceed RAOs, the Air Force will evaluate additional remedial actions and natural attenuation mechanisms to determine timeframes for achieving RAOs.

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EPA appreciates the work that the Air Force has continued to perform at Eielson AFB to identify any outstanding issues and to propose potential solutions. We look forward to continuing to our productive working relationship as we implement the report findings. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jane Nearman of my staff at (206) 553-6642.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski, Director
Office of Environmental Cleanup

cc: Colin Craven, Alaska Department of Conservation