

STT Soil Burning Remediation Plant re-location

Petition

The reason for this petition is to change the location of the proposed STT dirt burner site. The location chosen mile 27.4 is in close proximity to the high school, aquifers, residences, the Clamery and bike path. The STT dirt burner will put off gasses like SO₂ into the air which will contaminate water aquifers and water wells, SO₂ is not safe for humans, animals or plants. We believe a remote area in Nikiski is better suited for this site.

The STT dirt burner is allowed by the DEC to burn up to 5 tons an hour, and only keep a log book. They do not have to test the air. Because of the potential for creating health problems, water well problems, and wetland areas that drain into the Cook Inlet an environmental impact study need to be done. One is not scheduled as of yet.

The DEC has given the Kenai Peninsula Borough until September 3rd to come up with a solution to this problem or propose an alternate plan to move this dirt burning facility to a more suitable location. The DEC has only seen aerial photos and has not been to the site.

The bag unit they intend to use has a tendency to explode. The DEC is aware of this and says they have a pressure inspection in place. This should not be near residences!

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) is a gaseous air pollutant composed of sulfur and oxygen. SO₂ forms when sulfur containing fuel such as coal, oil or diesel is burned. Sulfur dioxide also converts in the atmosphere to sulfates, a major part of fine particle pollution in the eastern US.

Sulfur dioxide causes a range of harmful effects on the lungs, as the EPA's most recent review of the science concluded:

- Wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness and other problems, especially during exercise or physical activity.
- Continued exposure at high levels increases respiratory symptoms and reduces the ability of the lungs to function.
- Short exposures to peak levels of SO₂ in the air can make it difficult for people with asthma to breathe when they are active outdoors.
- Rapid breathing during exercise helps SO₂ reach the lower respiratory tract, as does breathing through the mouth.
- Increased risk of hospital admissions or emergency room visits, especially among children, older adults and people with asthma.
- SO₂ can also harm trees and plants by damaging foliage and decreasing growth.
- SO₂ and other sulfur oxides can contribute to acid rain which can harm sensitive ecosystems.