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This burn site has not been put in the public's awareness enough. There were no public comments at the beginning of this. The public never knew about this.

On the concerns, there are 10 houses and 11 wells in this area, one well being for a commercial, food-grade business in the summer. That business sits around 150' higher than the dirt burner property, right next door, on the back right-hand corner of the property. Rep. Ben Carpenters' house is a mile away from the burn site.

We do not have water contamination problems outside of the red-zone in Nikiski. No problems by the burn site. The red zone is behind the high school, to the inlet, and by Wic Road to the inlet; and up to Merrill McGahan's airstrip.

Nobody in the DEC has been out to Nikiski to look at this site yet. They are going off aerial photos, of which we do not know how old they are. By the aerial photos they are looking at, north, south, east, & west are all marked in the wrong direction.

I asked these people about the "other sites". In the plans for the "other sites", do they have 10 houses/families living around them? Have they considered the quality of life & human health; all the interactions of people in our community, around this site? Are they willing to put an umbrella insurance policy to protect everybody in this area? At least 500' around the perimeter boundary? What about the people who are walking or driving by? What IS the insurance policy that STT has for this operation? Is the DEC, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and the state of Alaska going to be on this policy also? Their actions are uncalled for. They are turning a blind eye to the concerns the people have. What will the repercussion be if there is a catastrophic failure? DEC should NOT come up with a waiver for this company, with all the air quality comments, the petitions, the radio announcements, and the borough assembly meetings. I think we would have had a lot more comments if the original first public announcement would have been put out a lot more, rather than just a news paper, of which not everybody reads! It really should have been mailed to everybody in this area.

The testing will be very very small for the amount of material being tested. The tests are too far and few in between also. There should be testing of the material at least every month. Not at the beginning and end of the whole process. What if there is a problem a month or two out? How would you know of the problem or the scope of it? It could keep getting worse. The engineered containment - how will it actually prevent secondary contamination from water? Is a charcoal filter actually going to work as well as you think? Who is going to oversee the charcoal filtering system? Also, there really should be monitoring wells on every corner of the property.

To Rep. Ben Carpenter: How did you actually know that this was a "done deal" by the 16th of July? Also, this needs to be monitored a lot better - it's gonna be too late if there is illicit activity, or a breach of any kind, at this burn site. Air and water quality could be ruined by the time the problem was seen or figured out.

Where they are putting this facility for dirt burning is already jeopardized by removing 35' of soil and clay, which could have buffered any contaminants.

As for the advantage this facility provides the community: HOW? You are NOT looking at the homes and residents! There is a more suited place to do this!

FW: Rep. Carpenter re: Nikiski soil remediation facility

From: Sheren, David J (GOV) <dave.sheren@alaska.gov>

Date: 09/02/2021 12:38PM

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Cc: Duane Bannock <duane@radiokenai.com>

Subject: Rep. Carpenter re: Nikiski soil remediation facility

Good afternoon -

DEC program staff and Legislative Liaison Laura Achee met with Representative Ben Carpenter this morning to discuss a new soil thermal remediation facility in his district. While the location for the facility is not zoned as a residential area, there are residences within a mile of the site, so there have been constituent concerns. Rep. Carpenter's house is one of the nearby residences. There is a great deal of local concern that this facility will cause hazardous contamination to the air and ground water, in part due to past drinking water contamination in the area.

Jim Plosay and Jason Olds from the Air Quality Division and Stephanie Buss and Lisa Krebs-Barsis from the Contaminated Sites program provided information on the permitting/plan approval process and the safeguards that will be put in place to protect public health and the environment. The draft air emissions permit is out for public comment, and the approval of the operations plan is still in process. Staff discussed the expected plant operations and emissions, as well as future compliance oversight and inspections. They put the operations in context of similar plants and emissions from other facilities in the district.

Staff explained that the facility is prohibited from remediating hazardous waste or PFAS contaminated soil. Contaminated materials are tested for hazardous substances prior to DEC's approval for remediation at the facility, and SPAR project managers will not grant approval to transport to the facility any hazardous waste or prohibited contaminants. An engineered containment will prevent secondary contamination from contaminated waste and runoff from the operation. A baseline soil investigation of the property will occur before operations begin and another assessment of the property will occur when the facility closes.

Rep. Carpenter shared community concerns that STT could remediate hazardous materials outside of DEC's knowledge, and asked how DEC would know. Staff explained that we can't completely prevent illicit activity, but that the operators have a history with DEC of legal operations, and that if DEC discovered illegal activities we would be able to take action, including shutting down the facility.

Lisa Krebs-Barsis noted Rep. Carpenter's discussions with STT regarding a physical barrier for the materials being remediated, and she will note that in the approved plan documents. Staff confirmed for the Representative that self-reporting, scheduled inspections, and the ability to conduct unscheduled inspections are all in the permit documents or will be included as a condition of approval.

Lisa Krebs-Barsis noted the advantage this facility provides to the community, allowing for lower cost and more immediate remediation of local contaminated soil. The latter helps contain and prevent additional contamination following discovery.

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