

06 FEB 1992

Phillip G. Millam
Chief, Superfund Branch
ATTN: Mark Ader (HW-113)
U.S. EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Subject: Request for Submission of a Preliminary Assessment for
the Red Devil Mine Site - AK9804956180:

Dear Mr. Millam:

We are responding to your Information Request Letter dated December 6, 1991 concerning the subject Mine Site. We answered each question on EPA's PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT (PA) DATA REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL FACILITY DOCKET SITES and it is attached as Attachment 1. Attachment 2 is a copy of BLM's Red Devil Mine Site Inspection Final Report which was submitted to EPA's Anchorage Office in July 1989.

As a result of the Final Report Field Investigation, we removed by contract all PCB items from the Site (Attachment 3) in September 1988. The contract file is available at our Anchorage District Office. All the remaining Non-PCB transformer fluid was removed from the Site in September 1991 and records regarding disposal are, also, in our contract file.

Additional removal actions conducted on site were the posting of warning signs and restricting of access. We have also taken Annual Surface Water Samples since 1989 in accordance with the Recommendations contained in Attachment 2. Photographs and other records are kept at our Anchorage District Office.

If you have additional questions regarding the Red Devil Mine Site, please contact Mac Wheeler at 907-267-1426 or FTS 869-1426.

/s/ Richard J Verinmen

Richard J. Verinmen
District Manager

cc:

Marcia Combes
U.S. EPA Alaska Operations Office
Room 537, Federal Building
222 W. 7th Ave. #19
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7588

Wayne Svejnoha (AK-933)

6 Attachments

1-PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT (PA) DATA
REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL FACILITY
DOCKET SITES.

2-BLM Red Devil Mine Site Inspection Report
June 1989.

3-PCB Item Disposal.

4-Site Map (6 USGS Quadrangles) 1 copy
to Mr. Ader.

5-Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Red Devil Mine CERCLA Site Inspection Report
September 1987.

6-Letter dated July 20, 1989 submitting
Attachment 2) to EPA - Anchorage Office.

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PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT (PA)

DATA REQUIREMENTS

FOR FEDERAL FACILITY DOCKET SITES

1. Supply copies of all existing sampling data, on-site and off-site, including location map, detection limits (see definitions, pg. 5), raw data sheets, QA/QC documents, date(s) sampled, analytical method(s) used, well or boring logs, and sampling techniques(s).

Answer: See Attachment #2 (Red Devil Mine Site Inspection Final Report dated June 1989 - CERCLA No. AKD-980495618).

- A) Existing Sampling Data - pages 3-6, 3-7 & 3-8.
- B) Location map - pages 3-2 & 3-3.
- C) Detection Limits & Raw data Sheets - Appendix A
- D) QA/QC Documents - Section 4
- E) Dates sampled - pages 3-6, 3-7 & 3-8.
- F) Analytical Methods used - Section 4.
- G) Well Log - pages 4-4 & 5.4.
- H) Sampling Techniques - Section 4.

2. Locate and identify on a topo map all known or suspected sources (see definitions, pg. 5). Supply all information about source(s) such as: Dates of operation, use, and spillage; amount of material deposited, stored, or spilled; dimensions of source(s); known or suspected hazardous substances (see definitions, pg. 5), etc.

Answer: See attachment #2 (Red Devil Mine Site Inspection Final report dated June 1989 - CERCLA No. AKD-980495618).

- A) Site Vicinity and Location - Figure 1, page 3-2.
- B) Site Plan - Figure 2, page 3-3.
- C) Other Information - Sections 3, 5, 7 & 8; Appendix A-E.

Note: To encompass the area within 15 miles of Red Devil Mine we have attached the 6 most recent and detailed USGS Quadrangles to this report as Attachment 4.

3. Provide a description of all aquifers beneath the site. Include descriptions of overlying materials(i.e., hydraulic conductivity/permeability), thickness, composition, and depth aquifer is first encountered. *NOTE: This data requirement involves a literature search of all current or existing geologic information.

Answer: See attachment #2 (Red Devil Mine Site Inspection Final report dated June 1989 - CERCLA No. AKD-980495618)

- A) Section 8.

4. For each source, choose one description from Table 1 (page 6-7) that describes the ground water containment. Provide complete documentation (i.e., engineering diagrams, photographs {originals}) as to why the source meets that description and not any other in the table.

Answer: See attachment #2 (Red Devil Mine Site Inspection Final report dated June 1989 - CERCLA No. AKD-980495618)

A) Section 7 & Section 11.

Note:

a. In September 1988 BLM removed two transformers (RD-T-12 & RD-T-17) from the Red Devil Mine Site that had tested during the Site Investigation as greater than 50 ppm PCB's. The transformer fluid was disposed of (Certificate of Disposal No. 5407 - 3/30/1989) by APTUS Environmental Services at their Coffeyville, Kansas Facility. The transformers were disposed of by ROLLINS at their Deer Park, Texas Facility on 8/31/1989.

b. BLM, also, posted and restricted access to the site in September 1988.

c. In September 1991 BLM removed approximately 600 gallons of unregulated low level (less than 50 ppm PCB's) and zero level PCB transformer fluid from all of the remaining transformers at the site.

5. Provide the location of all drinking water wells (by HRSII distance rings in table format) in all aquifers within 4-mile radius from site (property boundary). Show on topo map all wells within 1-mile radius. Provide information on depth of well(s), screening interval(s), depth aquifer(s) encountered, and population served. For multiple wells (i.e., municipal system) provide the number of wells, location of all wells (regardless of 4-mile limit), average annual pumpage of each well (regardless of 4-mile limit), and total population served by system. Include information on all standby wells.

Answer: See attachment #2 (Red Devil Mine Site Inspection Final report dated June 1989 - CERCLA No. AKD-980495618)

A) Section 8.5 (page 8-2).

B) Section 5.4 (page 5.4).

6. Provide information and location of wells within 4-mile (on topo map show all wells within 1-mile radius) that are used:

- a) to irrigate 5 or more acres of commercial food or forage crops.
- b) for watering of commercial livestock,
- c) as an ingredient in commercial food preparation,
- d) as a supply to aquaculture, or
- e) as a supply for a major or designated water recreation area, excluding drinking water use.

Answer: Not Applicable.

7. What is the average number of persons per residence (Borough, city, village, community, etc.) that site is located in?

Answer: See attachment #2 (Red Devil Mine Site Inspection Final report dated June 1989 - CERCLA No. AKD-980495618).

- A) Section 3 - Site Information (page 3-1 thru 3-8).
- B) Population 53 (1990 Census).
- C) Since the most current USGS maps (attachment 4) are out-of-date, (1954), use 1990 census data for cabin occupancy figures. The mine has not operated since 1971, therefore, many of the structures shown on the USGS quadrangles may no longer be used or in existence.

8. Identify and locate all surface water bodies within 2 miles of site. Indicate the drainage routes (shown on topo map) from each source to applicable surface water bodies. Provide the average annual flow (cubic feet per second) for each surface water body within 15 miles downstream (river, stream, etc.) or 15-mile radius (lakes, bays, etc.) from the point of probable entry into surface water. For lakes, provide information on inflow and outflow.

Answer: See attachment #2 (Red Devil Mine Site Inspection Final report dated June 1989 - CERCLA No. AKD-980495618)

- A) Section 8.4 (page 8-2).
- B)

Name	Drainage Area(mi ²)	Average Discharge(cfs)
Red Devil Cr.	1.2	1.6
McCally Cr.	3.6	4.7
Kuskokwim R.	28,000.0	36,400.0
- C) Point of probable entry would be Red Devil Creek & Kuskokwim River. McCally Cr is an undisturbed Drainage Area between the Mine and the village of Red Devil.

9. For each source, choose one description from Table 2 (page 7-8) that best describes the surface water containment. Provide complete documentation (i.e., engineering diagrams, photographs {originals}) as to why the source meets that description and not any other in the table.

Answer: See attachment #2 (Red Devil Mine Site Inspection Final report dated June 1989 - CERCLA No. AKD-980495618) -

- A) Sections 3, 5, 7 & 8.

10. What is the number of acres in each drainage basin?

Answer: See question 8.

11. From Table 3 (page 8), choose the predominant soil group (surface soil) which comprises the largest total area within each drainage area.

Answer: See attachment #2 (Red Devil Mine Site Inspection Final report dated June 1989 - CERCLA No. AKD-980495618)

- A) Section 8.3.
- B) Red Devil Creek Site - Coarse Textured Soils.

12. What is the 2-year, 24-hour rainfall? What is the Annual net Precipitation?

Answer: A) 2-year, 24-hour = 1.5 in. (Source-McGrath NWS).
B) Net Precipitation = 17.01 in. (Source-McGrath NWS).

13. From Table 4 (page 8), choose the floodplain category for each source (supply Federal Emergency Management Agency or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers floodplain map) and determine if each source meets the criteria from Table 5 (page 9) (engineer's certification).

Answer: Estimate - 500-year floodplain.

14. Provide the location (by HRSII distance rings in table format) of all drinking water intakes within 15 miles downstream (rivers, streams, etc.) or 15-mile radius (lakes, bays, etc.). Show on topo map all intakes within 1-mile radius/downstream. Provide information on population served. For multiple intakes (i.e., municipal system) provide information on the number of intakes, location of all intakes (regardless of 15-mile limit), average annual pumpage of each intake (regardless of 15-mile limit), and total population served by system. Include information on all standby intakes.

Answer: None Known or Expected.

15. Provide information and location of intakes within 15 miles downstream (rivers, streams, etc.) or 15-mile radius (lakes, bays, etc.) that are used:*

- a) to irrigate 5 or more acres of commercial food or forage crops,
- b) for watering of commercial livestock,
- c) as an ingredient in commercial food preparation,
- d) as a supply for aquaculture, or
- e) As a supply for a major or designated water recreation area, excluding drinking water use.

* On topo map show location of intakes within 1-mile radius/downstream.

Answer: None Known or Expected.

16. What is the average human food chain production (pounds per year per acre) for each surface water body within 15 miles downstream (rivers, streams, etc.) or 15-mile radius (lakes, bays, etc.)?

Answer: Not Known for the Red Devil Alaska area.

17. Identify all sensitive environments (Table 6, page 9) that exist within a 4-mile radius on land, 15 miles downstream (rivers, streams, etc.), or 15-mile radius (lakes, bays, etc.), in HRSII distance ring table format. Provide original documentation (U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Natural Heritage Database, State agencies, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, etc.) and locate each environment within 1-mile on a topo ma. Note that there could be multiple sensitive environments within the appropriate limit.

Answer: There are no known sitings of threatened or endangered species within the area.

18. What is the linear frontage (miles) of all wetlands 15 miles downstream (rivers, streams, etc.) or 15-mile radius (lakes, bays, etc.)? *All sides of waterbody.

Answer: A) There are little, if any, wetlands at the site or downstream of the site on Red Devil Creek.
B) An estimated 50% of the frontage along Kuskokwim River would be considered wetlands.

19. What is the location and number of persons residing, working, attending school or day care within 200 feet of each source?

Answer: Zero. The Village of Red Devil (Pop. 53) is located about 1 mile downstream of site.

20. Identify all terrestrial sensitive environments (Table 7, page 10) that exist on-site. Provide original documentation (U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Natural Heritage Database, State agencies, national Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, etc.) and locate each on a topo map. Note that there may be multiple sensitive environments within the site limits/boundaries.

Answer: See Question 17.

21. For each source, choose one description from Table 8 (page 10) that describes the accessibility of the site. Provide complete documentation (i.e., engineering diagrams, photographs {originals}) as to why the source meets that description and not any other in the table.

Answer: Accessible with no public recreation use.

NOTE: Site was posted and access was restricted by placing chain across road in 1988.

22. What is the total number of people within the following distance categories?

	Answer
0 - 1/4 mile	0
1/4 - 1/2 mile	0
1/2 - 1 mile	2 (House count - two people)
1 - 2 miles	51 (Census)
2 - 3 miles	0
3 - 4 miles	0

Use current/available Census data and/or actual house counts. Document how calculated.

23. For each source, choose one description from Table 9 (page 10) that describes the gaseous containment. From Table 10 (page 11), choose the appropriate description of each source type. For each source, choose one description from Table 11 (page 11) that describes the particulate containment. Provide complete documentation (i.e., engineering diagrams, photographs {originals}) as to why the source meets that description and not any other in the table.

Answer: See attachment #2 (Red Devil Mine Site Inspection Final report dated June 1989 - CERCLA No. AKD-980495618).

A) Section 7.

24. What is the location and area (in acres) of all wetlands within 4 miles of site?

Answer: A) Based on USGS quadrangles less than 20% of the area is wetlands. (less than 6,500 acres)
B) 4 miles x 4 miles x 3.14 x 640 acre/mile² = 32154 acres.
C) 58% x 32154 = 18649 acres.
D) Location - see USGS Topo Maps (Attachment 1).

25. Contact EPA Regional Office immediately if any radionuclides are present or suspected at site and supply all radiological information known to date.

Answer: None Known or expected.

26. Have any removals or remedial actions taken place at site? If yes, then submit ALL information pertaining to action taken.

Answer: See Question 4.

27. For all of the above information, use primary data sources and supply 2 copies or specify where copies may be obtained.

Answer: A) See Attachment 3 for PCB Item Removal.
B) Copies of Annual Water Quality Monitoring for Mercury, Lead and Arsenic may be obtained by calling Mac Wheeler (Ph:907-267-1426) at the BLM Anchorage District Office.

28. Has any of the above information been previously submitted to the EPA Superfund Program? If yes, please specify the reference (page and paragraph) or provide a copy of the document.)

Answer: See attachment #2 & 5 (Red Devil Mine Site Inspection Reports dated September 1987 & June 1989 (CERCLA No. AKD-980495618)

A) Yes. The referenced and attached Site Inspection Final Report was hand delivered to EPA's Anchorage Office in June 1989 for review and comments. In addition a copy was also mailed to EPA's Anchorage Office (Attachment 6) on 20 July 1989. To date no comments have been recieved. We assume that the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation sent EPA a copy of a previous Site Inspection Report (Attachment 5) which was prepared by Tryck, Nyman & Hayes of Anchorage, Alaska in September 1987.

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