



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Environmental
Conservation

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Solid Waste Program

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June 14, 2016

CERTIFIED MAIL#7014 0150 0000 1118 4832
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ron Beattie, Supervisor, Public Works & Facilities
City and Borough of Yakutat
PO Box 160
Yakutat, AK 99689

RE: May 24, 2016 - Landfill Inspection of the Class III City of Yakutat Landfill Permit #SW3A133-20

Dear Mr. Beattie:

I completed my inspection of the Yakutat Landfill on May 24, 2016. I would like to thank you, Ron Beattie and the landfill operator, Aaron Gray for facilitating my inspection, discussing current operations and your willingness to work with me by improving your solid waste operations. The enclosed 2016 Landfill Community Waste Management Index provides an assessment of the current state of solid waste disposal in Yakutat and presents ideas for incremental improvement. The enclosed inspection form includes percentage scoring for Landfill Site Control, Burning Management, Landfill Operations, Landfill Water Impacts, Special Waste Management, Administration and Waste Management Improvement Programs. The score breakdown is as follows:

	Points/Possible	Percentage
Landfill Site Control	13/15	87%
Burning Management	11/15	73%
Landfill Operations	45/50	90%
Landfill Water Impacts	12/15	80%
Special Waste Management	32/35	91%
Administration	17/20	85%
Waste Management Improvement Programs	13	Bonus
Total	130/150	87%

This inspection scores reflect your current landfill site and operations. The general operations of your landfill have improved over the years that I have inspected your facility. I would like to commend your operator Aaron Gray on his continued hard work and dedication in operating and maintaining Yakutat's solid waste landfill site. He has done an excellent job establishing a solid waste separation collection program and resolved several previous operational problems at the landfill.

18 AAC 60.225. Surface water requirements. (b) Except for an inert waste landfill, an asbestos landfill, or a Class III MSWLF that meets the standards in 18 AAC 60.300(c)(3)(B), the owner or operator of a landfill shall (1) remove all ponded water that is in contact with waste within seven days after the formation of the pond unless another dewatering schedule is specified in a permit issued under AS 46.03.100 and this chapter;



The best way to prevent the formation of leachate is to prevent as much water as possible from coming into contact with the waste or from entering the landfill. You can prevent ponding by covering any ponded areas with additional soil and gravel and regrading the area to promote drainage off the landfill as in the case of the ponding that is occurring within the construction and demolition cell.



As in the case of the active ash cell, during heavy rainfall seasons, the trench fills up with water and there is no way to drain or for water to leave the area creating a bathtub effect. One possible solution would be to dig a French drain or ditch from the back of the upper right side to direct water to a lower area behind the main landfill away from any waste disposal areas.

Open burning is defined as any burning in which smoke is emitted directly into the air, instead of passing through a smoke stack or vent. This is what distinguishes open burning from incineration. Open burning includes burning materials in piles on the ground, in burn barrels, or in other large open bins or containers. Yakutat has really improved their operations in the last few years. However, this aspect of your operation needs to move to the next level by acquiring a burn unit that utilizes a smoke stack with a spark arrestor. The burn unit should also be equipped with a grate to increase airflow under the waste which increases the temperature of the fire and results in a more complete burn. I suggest that the operator not light the fire at night prior to leaving the landfill but rather light it at a time during his workday so he can monitor it. An unattended burn can start wildfires.



Alaskan Stoves (907) 590-7363

The Tok burn units (see figure) are an example of a burn unit that is available for purchase to minimize the volume of waste in remote locations.

Please contact me at (907)465-5318 or by email at sandra.woods@alaska.gov if you have any questions, comments, or if I can be of further assistance to your community with regard to solid waste management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra M. Woods".

Sandra M. Woods
Environmental Specialist
Solid Waste Program

Cc: Aaron Gray, Landfill Manager
Jon Erickson, Borough Manager

Enclosure

