

# DEC to inspect 15 potential waste sites

A sum of \$300,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be used this summer and fall by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to inspect 15 locations around Alaska which may have been contaminated by past practices and used in the handling of hazardous wastes. The announcement of the federal funding for the site investigation was made jointly today by EPA and Alaska DEC.

The inspections by ADEC will help the agency determine if hazardous materials are present at any of the 15 locations, and—if they are found—whether they pose a threat to human health or to the environment. The locations are listed below:

Perserverance Mill, Juneau;  
Juneau Landfill, Juneau;  
White Pass Yukon Railroad,  
Skagway;  
Frontier Tanning, Anchorage;  
Alaska Pollution Control,  
Anchorage;  
Alaska Husky Battery Inc.,  
Anchorage;  
Rogers and Babbler,  
Anchorage;  
Old Kenai Dump, Kenai;

Kenai Landfill, Kenai;  
Red Devil Mine, Bethel;  
Alaska Gold, Nome;  
Fairbanks Borough Landfill,  
Fairbanks;  
Alaska Battery Enterprises,  
Fairbanks;  
University of Alaska,  
Fairbanks;  
Fort Yukon City Dump, Fort  
Yukon;

The Alaska Husky Battery Inc. site in Anchorage is the only location on the above list where the presence of hazardous waste has been established by actual inspection. Soil samples at Alaska Husky Battery showed lead at concentrations up to 77,000 parts per million. The upcoming ADEC inspections will include follow-up visits to Alaska Husky Battery to discover how widespread the contamination might be.

Inspections at all other locations will involve sampling of soils and, if appropriate, nearby surface streams and groundwater. After samples are collected, they will be sent to laboratories for analysis. A final report on the findings is expected next spring.

In Juneau, ADEC Commissioner Bill Ross said, "I am very pleased that we will have the funding to conduct the investigation of these sites. One of our primary interests at the agency is to look at sites that have been identified as possibly contaminated and determine the extent and kind of contamination—if any, to prevent

future threats to public health or the environment. I view this as part of a broad effort in Alaska to examine hazardous waste sites; others are being investigated by the military and EPA."

The Commissioner explained that if any of these sites are found to be potential problems requiring remedial action, they could

then be submitted for inclusion on the Superfund National Priority List as candidates for federal funding for cleanup and safe disposal of the contaminated materials. He said that if members of the public are aware of any other sites that should be investigated, they should contact the nearest DEC or EPA office and report the information.