



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Environmental  
Conservation**

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
Solid Waste Program

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February 27, 2024

City of Dillingham  
Kim Johnson - City Manager  
Box 889  
Dillingham, AK 99576

**Emailed to Kim Johnson at  
[manager@dillinghamak.us](mailto:manager@dillinghamak.us)**

Enforcement Tracking No. 2022-R0263

Subject: Dillingham Landfill Inert Waste Cell Fire – Closure of Notice of Violation

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the City of Dillingham for a fire that started in the Dillingham Landfill Inert Waste Cell, emitting black smoke, and spreading beyond the boundaries of the landfill. Such actions are in violation of:

- Open burning - 18 AAC 60.355
- Creation of black smoke - 18 AAC 50.065(b)
- Controlling impacts outside landfill boundaries - 18 AAC 60.233(2)

To address the violation, ADEC required the City of Dillingham to complete the following:

- Contact the Solid Waste Program representative for the Dillingham Landfill (Stephen Price) daily with situation updates on the fire until it is deemed completely extinguished by the Dillingham Fire Department
- Immediately prohibit public salvaging in any area of the landfill except for the designated salvage area located at the transfer station.
- Do not burn any waste, except in the municipal solid waste incinerator located at the transfer station, until weather conditions improve, and the local Division of Forestry's office has been contacted and approves the burn. Only burn clean (untreated, painted, glued etc.) lumber, pallets, and brush in the burn cage.
- By July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, submit a plan for approval to the Solid Waste Program detailing the steps that will be taken to ensure a fire of this type does not occur again and a timeline for when those steps will be implemented. The plan must include:
  - A timeline for covering the inert waste cell with 12 inches of compacted cover material (gravel, sand, soil etc.)
  - How the Dillingham Landfill will ensure that wastes that would be disposed in the inert waste cell are drained of all fluids before they are accepted.

- How the Dillingham Landfill will ensure that all wastes are at least 50 feet from the property boundary and how vegetation will be cut down within that 50 foot area to serve as a fire break.

In response, the City of Dillingham:

- Stayed in communication with DEC Solid Waste staff until the fire was extinguished.
- Prohibited public salvaging at the Inert Waste Cell.
- Did not burn any material until Division of Forestry had been contacted, the weather conditions were appropriate, and DEC Solid Waste staff had been contacted and approved the burn.
- The City of Dillingham submitted and implemented a plan that included:
  - Consolidating, compacting, and covering material in the Inert Waste Cell.
  - Having all vehicles checked for fluids and drained before disposal in the Inert Waste Cell.
  - Creating 50ft fire breaks around all disposal cells in the Dillingham Landfill and documenting that all waste would stay at least 50ft from the property boundary.

**The City of Dillingham has fulfilled the requirements of the NOV and ADEC will close the enforcement action.**

Thank you for working with ADEC to resolve this matter and taking steps to ensure it doesn't happen again. Please contact me at (907) 269-7467 or by email at [stephen.price@alaska.gov](mailto:stephen.price@alaska.gov) with any questions or comments you might have.

Sincerely,



Stephen Price  
Rural Landfill Specialist