National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Denali National Park and Preserve
Date: 04/15/2019

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Conduct Additional Site investigation at Hotel Powerhouse site
PEPC Project Number: 85631
Description of Action (Project Description):

The scope of this project is to determine the current status of soil contamination at the Hotel Powerhouse site by means of drilling up to 10 borings (~55 ft depth) to determine maximum concentrations of diesel in the soil.The site is the result of a surface spill of approximately 10,000 gallons of diesel from a railroad tanker car in 1972, releases from a diesel UST serving the Powerhouse removed in 1993 and 50 feet of fuel discovered in a 300 foot deep 8-inch unused drinking water well in the 1990s. The EDL number for this site is 5AR13 and the EDL rank is 57.Several Site Assessments were conducted at the site, with numerous soil borings delineating the lateral and vertical extent of soil contamination. Approximately 1,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed from the site in the early 2000s. Studies determined that the contamination in the well was not related to the releases to the soil but most likely, it was mistaken for a tank fill port. This well was decommissioned in 2012.

Despite all of the excavation efforts, DRO concentrations in the soil remain above the direct contact level of 10,250 mg/kg in several locations and contamination levels above migration to groundwater cleanup levels remain all the way down to bedrock, encountered at 55 feet.The NPS has hoped for closure based on the fact that much of the highly contaminated soils are under silty topsoils, mitigating exposure to a certain degree, and the site is occupied for only brief periods of time, limited to periodic checks on the backup generators in the building at the site.

The site seemed destined for closure, but in 2018, a new regulator for the State of Alaska (ADEC) requested information about the current status of the contamination of the soil at the site before closure of the site could be considered. The main focus is whether soil contamination remains above the direct contact cleanup level at the site. The goal will be to close the site with institutional controls.

Location

County: Denali Borough **State:** AK

Mitigation(s): Complete drilling after road lottery, with "in-road" boreholes completed last.

CE Citation: E.4 Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions.

CE Justification:

Testing is requested by ADEC to affirm that contaminant levels dot not exceed "direct cleanup level." If levels are sufficiently low in light of past clean-up and remediation efforts at the site, the site can be "closed" with institutional controls.

Decision: I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

Signature

Superintendent: _____ **Date:** 15 April 2019
for Don Striker

Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	No	
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?	No	
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	No	
I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	No	
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?	No	