



# United States Department of the Interior

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
P.O. Box 2139  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669-2139  
(907) 262-7021



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
16-007ajl

January 22, 2016

Mr. John Halverson  
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
555 Cordova St  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Halverson:

This is to provide official notification to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, as required under 18AAC 75.300, of an environmental contaminants issue on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), which is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

The Homer Electric Association (HEA) operates electric utility corridors within the Refuge under Service-issued Right-of-Way Permits. HEA recently announced plans to replace a substantial number of utility poles in an active utility line, and potentially to remove several additional poles associated with a second line which may be decommissioned. Utility poles in use on the Refuge are chemically-treated and are a known potential source of contamination. In order to identify and ensure implementation of best management practices for future pole replacement and/or removal, the Service initiated soil assessments near utility poles for potential contamination with pentachlorophenol (PCP), dioxins and furans, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Soil samples were collected in June 2015.

Laboratory results from analyses of soil samples have recently been received by the Service. PCP and dioxin/furan levels have been prioritized for interpretation, due to their high toxicity and elevated concentrations in soils. Results reveal that a majority of poles treated with PCP, both historically (1950s) and more recently (within the past 20 years), have contaminated surrounding soils with concerning levels of PCP and dioxins/furans. Information on study design and laboratory results was submitted to you via email by Ms. Lori Verbrugge on January 21, 2016.

We look forward to further coordination with you on this matter. In the interim, please contact me directly at 907-260-2804 should you have questions or if further information is required relative to this notification. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andy Loranger  
Refuge Manager

cc: Mitch Ellis, Regional Chief, NWRS, Alaska Region