



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ALASKA
P.O. BOX 6898
ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA 99506-0898

October 16, 2009

Environmental Special Programs
Programs and Project Management

Mr. Ronnie Toolie, President
Native Village of Savoonga
P.O. Box 120
Savoonga, AK 99769

Dear Mr. Toolie:

Thank you for your letter dated August 12, 2009, where you asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to remove all the debris from the Site 7 landfill at Northeast Cape. As you know, we were busy digging through the landfill and capping it this past summer. The final fill was being placed and compacted as a cap about the time I received your letter.

I hope the residents of St. Lawrence Island will be pleased with the outcome at Site 7 once the details are fully explained. I was especially impressed with the work our contractor, Bristol Environmental, did at Site 7. Bristol exceeded our expectations in that they didn't just dig test pits or trenches through the debris, they dug through all the debris. Our goal was to make sure that we didn't leave a large cache of full drums behind, but now I can say that we didn't leave any full drums behind.

Previous investigations had already demonstrated that hazardous substances were not escaping the landfill in significant amounts. Now we have good reason to believe that this will always be the case. After this summer's efforts, we can be confident the Site 7 landfill does not represent a human health or ecological hazard.

In addition to cleaning up the site, this project also benefited the people of Saint Lawrence Island economically. The Corps purchased the gravel for the landfill cap from the Native Corporations (Sivuqag and Kukulget), providing profits of \$288,240 to the Corporations.

By removing hazardous material from the landfill and capping it in such a manner as to prevent any future contamination, the U.S. Government saved millions of dollars that would have been spent hauling away the remaining harmless debris. It is our duty

to manage our environmental projects in a thorough yet efficient manner for the Government.

The Corps does acknowledge the government-to-government relationship that we share with the Native Village of Savoonga. Our Command has had several government-to-government meetings with the Native Village of Savoonga in the past to consult with the Tribe before taking actions that may impact tribal resources. We have also assessed the impact of our activities to tribal resources before embarking on any undertakings. Government-to-government activities on the leadership level include visits to the Island by both Colonel Perrenot and Colonel Gallagher, followed by a tribal leaders meeting with Colonel Wilson at Elmendorf AFB. More frequently we work on a staff-to-staff level to consider tribal concerns and receive input from the community.

I look forward to sharing with you more detail about our work this past summer on my next visit to Savoonga, likely in November. If you have any questions, please contact me at (907) 753-2689, or by e-mail at carey.c.cossaboom@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Carey Cossaboom
Project Manager

cc: Savoonga IRA Council
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Mark Begich
Representative Don Young

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