



NATIVE VILLAGE OF SAVOONGA • P.O. BOX 120, SAVOONGA, AK 99769 • PHONE 984-6414 • FAX 984-6027

August 12, 2009

Mr. Carey Cossaboom  
Project Manager  
Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska  
P.O. box 6898  
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-0898

Dear Mr. Cossaboom:

With this letter, the Native Village of Savoonga calls upon the U.S. Army Corp of Engineer to remove all of the debris from Site 7 under the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Program.

This site is toxic, persistent in the environment, accumulates in humans and animals and migrates long distances far from this place. This toxicity may be harming communities on St. Lawrence Island and many other living organisms surrounding the site. We are specifically concerned that there is serious health effects associated with exposure to the type of toxic and hazardous material that may be buried on this landfill. We request that you take precautionary action by removing the entire site which poses a threat to our health and cultural well-being. Our physical, spiritual and cultural sustenance depends on the health and safety of our traditional foods, given the inherent persistent and bioaccumulative properties of some organochlorines and its presence in this ecosystem, continued presence pose a great hazard to the health of Indigenous peoples who are reliant on traditional diets of fish and marine mammals.

The United States currently has a legal government-to-government responsibility with the tribal governments. The Executive Memorandum establishes that relationship between the US agencies and tribal governments requiring that USACOE:

1. Operate within a government-to-government relationship with the federally recognized Tribes;

2. Consult to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, with tribal governments before taking any actions that affect these tribes;
3. Assess the impact of agency activities on tribal trust resources and assure that tribal interests are considered before the activities are undertaken.

USACOE must consider these responsibilities in this important decision. The United States, through this agency, must act now to protect its citizens, resources and the environment from the harmful effects of toxic and hazardous material.

Sincerely,

NATIVE VILLAGE OF SAVOONGA

*Robert Amogiyak, vice president  
for: Ronnie Toole*

Ronnie Toole  
President

MN/gwn

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