



Ted Stevens

United States Senator for Alaska

Please Note:

- Fill out one request form for each request
- This form (and any attachments) can be returned via:

Fax - (202) 224-2354
 Mail - The Honorable Ted Stevens
 United States Senate
 522 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
 Washington, D.C. 20510

- Requests are due by February 15, 2008.

FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Project Name: Sterling ZipMart Cleanup

Project Location: Sterling, Alaska

Project Description (please attach additional pages as required):

Provide additional financial assistance for response and cleanup activities related to the Sterling ZipMart fuel release.

(See attachment for complete project description)

Related Appropriations Bill: Interior

Amount of federal funding requested for FY09: 2,000,000

Total funding to complete this project: 2,000,000

Number of years to fund this project: 1

Matching funds from the State of Alaska: _____

Matching funds from local and private entities: _____

If this project was funded in prior appropriations bills (within the last five years), list each bill and the amount funded:

Amount included in the President's FY09 Budget: _____

Amount included in the State of Alaska FY09 Budget: _____

Check this box if state funding was sought but not provided.

List legislation that authorizes this project:

General EPA Authority

Check all that apply:

- A change in the current law is necessary in order to proceed with the project. (If so, attach language and a list of laws that need to be amended)
- Bill or report language is needed. (If so, attach requested language)

Sterling ZipMart Cleanup

Project Definition:

The Sterling ZipMart facility was a family owned vehicle fueling station that began operations in 1985 and closed in 2000. During a site closure investigation, floating gasoline product was identified on the groundwater. A broken fill pipe in the upgraded underground storage tank system contributed to significant fuel releases at this facility. The exact quantity of fuel spilled is unknown, but the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) has estimated that 50,000 gallons or more was released into the environment, based on a review of fuel records. This incident is one of the largest releases from regulated underground storage tank systems in the State of Alaska.

In 2002, the owner/operator of the Sterling ZipMart facility indicated they were unable to continue with the investigation and cleanup activities associated with the fuel spill. The ADEC assumed the lead role to investigate and cleanup the soil and groundwater to ensure the public is not at risk. To date, approximately 17,000 gallons of gasoline have been recovered via free product recovery efforts or removed by vapor extraction/thermal remediation efforts. Assessment results indicate that the free product and dissolved phase contaminant plumes may still be expanding. Additional monitoring wells were installed in 2006 to assist in defining the downgradient extent of the dissolved phase plume.

The groundwater in the Sterling ZipMart area is used by residents as their primary source of water and also serves the nearby Sterling Elementary School. Several private and public drinking water wells may be at risk and one well has contamination that exceeds the drinking water standard. Groundwater contamination penetrated the protective radius of the Sterling Elementary School's former drinking water well. The ADEC provided funding to assist the Kenai Peninsula Borough with the installation of a new drinking water well for the school. The new well is upgradient of the plume and draws groundwater from a confined aquifer at a depth of approximately 270 feet below ground surface. The new drinking water supply has naturally occurring arsenic levels that exceed the recently revised federal standards and require treatment.

The following activities are planned by ADEC for 2008:

1. Continue product recovery (free phase and vapor phase) efforts;
2. Continue to assess and investigate the extent of the plume and notify residents of site conditions;

3. Monitor the groundwater to ensure a safe drinking water source for residents and the school.

The following activities are proposed in the event federal funding is provided:

1. Provide a funding source that supplements the planned State cleanup work through 2008 that has been budgeted (or requested). This could allow cleanup to a higher standard, in a faster manner or cleanup more extensively than currently envisioned;
2. Provide contingency funds for unknown or unplanned assessment or cleanup work as a result of new information showing more extensive contamination;
3. Remove the underground storage tank system and remediate impacted soils;
4. Provide a funding source for the contingencies associated with unknown future impacts to the school water system. The federal funds may also provide reimbursement to the Kenai Peninsula Borough for expenses incurred to date and any future impacts to the school (eg. filtration system for arsenic);
5. Provide a remediation system to treat ground water.

Objective: The objective of this funding request is to provide additional financial assistance for response and cleanup activities at the Sterling ZipMart site. It may allow cleanup to a higher standard, and/or accelerate the time to remediate the contamination.

Funding Requirements: Federal Request \$2,000,000