



# Douglas Indian Association Tribal Government



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Mr. Joe Sarcone  
Alaska Regional Representative  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
222 W. 8th Avenue, Stop45, Room 261  
Anchorage, AK 99513

Dear Joe:

The Douglas Indian Association (DIA) is a federally-recognized tribe with about 700 Tribal members, many of who live within the Tribe's traditional and historic territory. DIA's Base Roll Tribal members originate from the T'aaku Kwáan and A'akw Kwáan clans which have inhabited the Anax Yaa Andagan Yé (Douglas) and Dzantik'i Héeni (Juneau) region since time immemorial. Our traditional and historical territory encompasses all of the City and Borough of Juneau, as well as some areas to the east and north on Admiralty Island and the Chilkat Peninsula, to the south encompassing Endicott Arm, and to the east into Canada in the areas of the Taku River and Atlin, B.C.

DIA has been conducting research on mining impacts through samplings of soil, water, shellfish on the Taku River as well as on Treadwell tailings on Douglas Island, Sandy Beach. Treadwell has been out of operation since 1917, however, the presences of mercury, arsenic and other contaminants are still present in these areas.

The Douglas Indian Association (DIA) has collected environmental data at Sandy Beach located adjacent to the historic Treadwell Mine immediately southeast of Douglas, Alaska. The site is located less than a mile to the southwest of downtown Juneau, which is located across Gastineau Channel.

The beach is used for the collection of traditional subsistence food resources by tribal members and recreation by the tribe and the general public. Historic disposal practices of waste rock, tailings, and processing chemicals at the Treadwell Mine have left Sandy Beach and the surrounding environs contaminated with heavy metals.

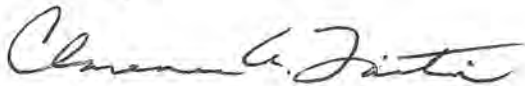
Sampling and analysis was conducted under DIA's Tribal Response Program according to an EPA approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). Heavy metals were found in sediment and seafood samples about screening levels.

We are requesting the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) assistance in reviewing the data collected by DIA to address the QAPP data quality objective:

**What is the extent of the contaminants of concern in sediments and biota that pose unacceptable risks to human health?**

We look forward to working with ATSDR on this project.

Sincerely,



Clarence A. Laiti  
Tribal President

Cc: DIA Tribal Council,  
Kamal Lindoff, Environmental