



Agency for Toxic Substances  
and Disease Registry  
Atlanta GA 30333  
May 16, 2019

Clarence A. Laiti  
Tribal President  
Douglas Indian Association Tribal Government  
811 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1529

Dear Mr. Laiti:

Thank you for your August 9, 2018 letter addressed to Mr. Joe Sarcone, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Alaska Regional Representative. In your letter, you requested ATSDR's assistance in evaluating the health risks associated with heavy metals found in sediment and seafood collected at and near Sandy Beach, Douglas, Alaska. Based upon our review of the available information, we have determined that there is sufficient information for ATSDR to provide the Tribe with a meaningful response to your request.

Working collaboratively with the Douglas Indian Association Tribal Response Program and the Alaska Department of Public Health (AKDPH), ATSDR will conduct an in-depth evaluation of the heavy metals found in sediment and seafood collected at and near the Sandy Beach to determine if exposure to these metals could create a health risk. As we conduct our public health evaluation, we will visit your community; talk with Tribal members and government officials about their concerns associated with the contamination; talk with Tribal members and officials about exposure to the sediment and seafood; and provide the community with information about the potential health concerns associated with ingesting sediment and seafood at and near Sandy Beach (e.g., fact sheets). In addition, we will talk with the local health-care professionals and provide them with information that they might need concerning the contamination at and near Sandy Beach. The findings of our public health evaluation will be documented in an ATSDR Health Consultation. The Tribe and local community will have an opportunity to review the report before it is finalized. We anticipate that all these activities will take approximately a year and a half from the date of this letter to complete. As we conduct these public health activities, Commander Arthur Wendel, MD will be your primary ATSDR contact (telephone number (206) 553-0454 or by email at [dvq6@cdc.gov](mailto:dvq6@cdc.gov)).

Thank you for raising your concerns to ATSDR and bringing them to our attention. If you have any questions about how ATSDR has evaluated your petition request, please contact Dr. Sven Rodenbeck at (770) 488-3660 or via email at [Srodenbeck@cdc.gov](mailto:Srodenbeck@cdc.gov). You can also contact Commander Wendel.

Sincerely,

Susan McAfee Moore  
Acting Director

Division of Community Health Investigations

Cc:  
Commander Arthur Wendel, ATSDR Region 10  
Sven Rodenbeck, ATSDR