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Media Advisory

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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North Pole Sulfolane Technical Project Team to Hold Community Workshop on Sulfolane

Who: North Pole Sulfolane Technical Project Team

What: Community Workshop on Sulfolane

When: Monday, May 16, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Where: The North Pole Grange on Grange Road, North Pole

Contact: Ty Keltner, DEC Information Officer, (907) 465-5009

The North Pole Sulfolane Technical Project Team (TPT) will hold a public workshop to discuss health issues regarding sulfolane. The meeting will be held in North Pole at 7 p.m. Monday, May 16, at the North Pole Grange located on Grange Road off Eighth Avenue.

James Durant, an environmental health scientist with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) will discuss ATSDR's recently released health consultation on sulfolane in drinking water and share knowledge about sulfolane toxicity from scientific literature. The industrial solvent was found in wells near the Flint Hills refinery in fall 2009.

Members of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services will address community concerns about sulfolane exposure in North Pole. After the presentations, TPT members will be available to answer questions and offer information on the progress of the sulfolane investigation and next steps, ongoing cleanup and remediation efforts on the refinery site, sulfolane sampling methods and the 2010 gardening sampling project.

The Technical Project Team was formed by Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation in 2010 and includes experts from DEC, DHSS, City of North Pole, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Flint Hills Resources and various contractors.

For more information on sulfolane in North Pole, please visit:
dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/sites/north-pole-refinery/