

THOMPSON, COE, COUSINS and IRONS, LLP
Soldotna, Alaska

Environmental Litigation Support for Allocation of Remedial Costs at a State Superfund Site

Thompson, Coe, Cousins and Irons, LLP hired Geolex, Inc. (Geolex) to determine relative contributions of various owners to contamination of soil and groundwater and to evaluate the various remediation efforts implemented at the River Terrace Recreational Vehicle Park (RTRVP) located on the north bank of the Kenai River in Soldotna, Alaska. The scope of our retention involved analysis of site history, operating procedures and soil and groundwater contamination detected beneath the River Terrace RV Park and in the vicinity of the site. This engagement included the analysis of site-specific data in order to evaluate the timing and allocate responsibility for releases of chlorinated solvents from a former dry cleaning operation at the RTRVP.

Geolex determined the most likely timing of releases of chlorinated solvents at the facility and the fate and transport of contaminants in the vadose zone and groundwater beneath the RTRVP. Mr. Gutiérrez reviewed extensive available data and technical reports relating to the RTRVP and surrounding facilities, including deposition testimony of former and current owners, former employees and environmental contractors working at the site, as well as testimony from the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

Through our evaluation of soil vapor, soil and groundwater contamination data, regulatory history, historic aerial photography and the results of environmental investigations and response actions, Geolex was able to construct a defensible model to allocate responsibility for releases and resulting soil and groundwater contamination. Geolex conducted a site inspection to establish current conditions and to aid in analysis of the timing of release and fate and transportation of perchloroethylene (PCE) and PCE-contaminated water at the site in the vadose zone and groundwater. Mr. Gutiérrez also prepared graphics and exhibits to support the presentation of his expert opinion at trial in Federal Court for the Ninth Judicial District in Anchorage, Alaska.

Major Project Elements:

- Contaminant hydrogeology
- Aerial photography interpretation
- DNAPL fate and transport analysis
- Evaluation of remedial design performance
- Environmental litigation support
- Expert witness testimony

