

30 SEP 1957

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NPAGD-M

SUBJECT: Safety, Location of Burn Pits, POL Terminal Storage
Fairbanks, FY 1959 MCA Program

TO: Commanding General
United States Army, Alaska
APO 949, U. S. Army
ATTENTION: ARAQM

1. Following will confirm understandings furnished by Mr. Smith, Fire Prevention Engineer, USARAL, to Mr. Wardie W. King, Chief, Safety Branch, and Mr. Edwin J. Kreitlow, POL Unit No. 1, of this office, in phone conversation dated 20 September 1957.

2. Regarding location for proposed burn pit for subject facility, this office will provide in the design a single, permanently located and constructed burn pit to serve all tanks located in the initial tank construction program (and all subsequent tank construction to ultimate of twelve tank group shown on planning sketch). The pit will be located at some yet undetermined point located to east or to north of twelve tank group and will be determined by topography, direction of prevailing winds, and drainage pattern existing at the site and in the surrounding area as will be revealed by field topographic information and available Fairbanks weather data. In accordance with the requirements for the minimum safety clearance distance recommended by Mr. Smith, the burn pit will be located not closer than 211 feet from center of nearest 122 foot diameter tank (150 foot clear distance from surface trace of tank shell). Pit will be constructed to meet structural and durability requirements. Pit will be liquid tight and lined with an adequate thickness of fire brick or equivalent heat resisting material.

3. Not discussed in above phone conversation is this office's proposal to connect the discharge of the sump pump of each tank to a fixed waste piping system consisting of branch pipelines which in turn will connect to a main pipeline extending to the burn pit. All waste lines will be buried, insulated, and electrically heated and thermostatically controlled. Electric heat is proposed for the reason that initial cost to construct the electric heating installation will be far less than cost to construct an equivalent steam heating facility. Need for operation of the heating system will be intermittent and very infrequent.

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Length of period for each requirement for heat will be in terms of hours or a few days at the most, and cost for fuel will be comparable for either method. In the event that your Headquarters would prefer to eliminate the branches and the main waste piping system between tanks and burn pit as outlined above, and thereby save an appreciable sum in first costs to construct and future difficulties and costs to maintain the waste piping system, this office should be advised. An alternate method proposed to the above described "fixed waste piping system to burn pit" is to provide tank truck fill riser pipe type connections located at each tank. To the risers, portable hoses could be connected. The sump pumps could then pump direct to risers and into the hoses to fill the tank trucks. The tank trucks could then haul the waste to the burn pit for disposal. Your instructions on the above matter relating to method of removal and disposal to be incorporated into the design are needed for the reasons that piping design, specifications of sump pumps, and construction of access road to tanks and to burn pit are involved.

4. In addition to burn pit, this office recommends an excavated, earthen waste basin adjacent to the burn pit into which water and other nonburnable liquids and residuum substances can be evacuated from the burn pit and disposed of by seepage into the soil and by burial as may be dictated by the substances involved. For removal of liquids from "burn pit" and transferring over into the proposed "natural waste basin," this office proposes to furnish a small, portable gasoline engine driven sump pump.

5. It is requested that above matters be reviewed by your Headquarters.

a. Should our understanding of the clearance distances desired between burn pit and nearest tank be at variance with that of your Headquarters, instructions should be furnished.

b. In addition, advice is requested on whether design of a fixed waste drain piping system for conveying waste liquids from tanks to burn pit is desired or whether the tank truck method will be used.

c. Comments and/or approval of the recommendation for "earthen waste basin" should be furnished.

d. In addition, request this office be advised of anticipated operating requirement as to maximum capacity in barrels to be provided in the burn pit structure.

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Airbase, NY 1979 MIA Program

6. Our designers will be in a position to proceed with preparation of contract documents upon receipt of firm advice from your headquarters on all points touched upon above and also other points as may be involved in the operating and safety requirements of subject facility as desired by your headquarters.

FOR THE DIRECTOR

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1 Incl
Planning Sketch

A. E. ROSE
Captain, AF
Executive

cc: IFO w/cy incl
SFO w/cy incl
GENERAL Attn: IFO w/cy incl

→ Safety Branch, Attn: Mr. King w/cy incl
Planning & Reports Br w/cy incl
Engr Gen w/cy incl
POL Unit No. 1 w/cy incl