

Special Project Adak Update

January
2001

United States Navy
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation



OU "B" Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Work Plan Approved Dispute Ends

Kevin Oates, Adak Project Manager for the US Environmental Protection Agency, and Elim Yoon, Project Manager for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, announced the end to the formal dispute among the Navy and EPA and the State of Alaska over the development of plans for investigation and cleanup of sites on Adak Island potentially contaminated with ordnance.

The announcement was made at a December 18 meeting of the OU "B" Project Team in Silverdale, Washington.

With the completion of the Preliminary Assessment Report and the RI/FS Work Plan in December 2000, the OU "B" Project Team completed the work necessary to



Members of the BRAC Environmental Cleanup Team met recently in Anchorage to review environmental work being completed on Adak. Pictured here, left to right, are the Navy's Real Estate Division Director Robert K. Uhrich, Navy Attorney Nancy Glazier, Ordnance Expert Doug Murray, and the new Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Project Manager Elim Yoon.

resolve the formal dispute initiated with the Navy by the EPA and ADEC in July of 1999 under the provisions of the existing Federal

Facilities Agreement for the cleanup of the former Navy base at Adak Island.

In an effort to resolve the dispute, the Navy, EPA, and the State of Alaska formed the OU "B" Project Team, which included representatives from the Navy, EPA, State of Alaska, US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Aleut Corporation, and the Aleutian/Pribiloff Island Association, as well as technical support from experts in the field of ordnance investigation and cleanup and community relations.

While a considerable amount of investigation and cleanup work remain to be done on OU "B," the end of the formal dispute is a sig-

Upcoming RAB Meetings

An informal meeting of Adak RAB members is scheduled for 7 p.m. Anchorage time, 6 p.m. Adak time on Feb. 21st. The meeting will be held at the ADEC offices located at 555 Cordova Street in Anchorage. Please check the web site, www.adakupdate.com, for the latest meeting information.

The next regularly scheduled RAB meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Anchorage time, 6 p.m. Adak time, on March 21st at the Hilton Hotel, 500 West Third Avenue, in Anchorage.

Please check the www.adakupdate.com or call 1-800-360-1561 for more information.

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OU "B" RI/FS Work Plan Approved (cont.)

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nificant milestone for the project. Completion of the Preliminary Assessment Report and RI/FS Work Plan provides an agreed on framework for conducting future investigations and arriving at cleanup decisions for OU "B" sites.

In a letter to confirm EPA approval of the Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection

"While a considerable amount of investigation and cleanup work remain to be done on OU "B," the end of the formal dispute is a significant milestone for the project...."

reports, Kevin Oates commended the Navy and its support contractors for reaching this milestone.

"The Navy has demonstrated exemplary efforts to work cooperatively with EPA, the State of Alaska, the Aleut Corporation, The Aleutian Pribiloff Island Association, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Adak Restoration Advisory Board, Adak community members and other stakeholders through the OU-B Project Team to develop a workable solution for ordnance issues at Adak," Oates wrote.

"This is especially notable during a time when there is a great deal of ongoing national debate on many topics concerning the investigation, clearance and management of property that has been affected by the use of ordnance."

The OU "B" Project Team was tasked with developing a plan for investigating sites with potential UXO contamination that addressed the concerns of regula-

tory agencies as well as community members and the future reuser of the former Navy base, The Aleut Corporation. This plan is formally referred to as the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan for OU "B".

Since its formation in July of 1999, the OU "B" Project Team has worked closely to resolve complex technical issues related to completing the RI/FS Work Plan. The Project Team generally met on a monthly basis with regular teleconferences and e-mail communication among members of the team.

A key component of the project team's work was reaching out to stakeholders to ensure their concerns were addressed. The project team met with the Restoration Advisory Board and held open houses to invite community input. In addition, a cooperative agreement between the Navy and the Aleutian/Pribiloff Island Association developed to facilitate A/PIA's participation as a member of the OU "B" Project Team.

The work of the project team includes:

■ Completing and documenting a thorough Archive Search Report to document previous UXO storage, handling, use and disposal activities on Adak;

■ Developing site screening methodologies for prioritizing investigation and cleanup of OU "B" sites;

■ Identifying appropriate technologies for field detection of UXO at sites being investigated on Adak;

■ Developing approaches for UXO investigations at sites planned for investigation during the 2000 field season on Adak;

■ Developing Standard Operating Procedures for rigorously documenting and recording all data collected during UXO investigations on Adak;

■ Developing the Explosive Hazard Safety Assessment Model for OU "B" Adak;

■ Developing detailed Land Use and Activity Maps for Adak based on current and expected future land use patterns for Adak.

These accomplishments are particularly noteworthy because of little precedent or guidance for dealing with many of these issues.

Mark Murphy, the Navy's Lead Adak Project Manager stated, "The Navy certainly appreciates the efforts of the project team. When the team was formed, it seemed as if some of the challenges we faced would be impossible to overcome. It really says a lot about what a group of people can get done if they have a common goal."

Where to Get More Information INFOLINE: 1-800-360-1561

University of Alaska Anchorage,
Library Reserve Room,
3211 Providence Dr.
907-786-1871 - M-F, 8 am to 5 pm,
Contact: Librarian

Information Repository Adak
Second Floor,
Bob Reeve High School
M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The CSO Office on Adak is now located at
Sandy Cove Housing, 101 C
Contact: Chief Rob Jenkins 1- 907-592-4351

Administrative Record
Engineering Field Activity NW
19917 Seventh Avenue, NE
Poulsbo, WA 98370

www.adakupdate.com

Draft Institutional Controls Management Plan Available for Public Review

The Draft Institutional Controls Management Plan is now available for public review in the

"Institutional control education is fundamental to success..."

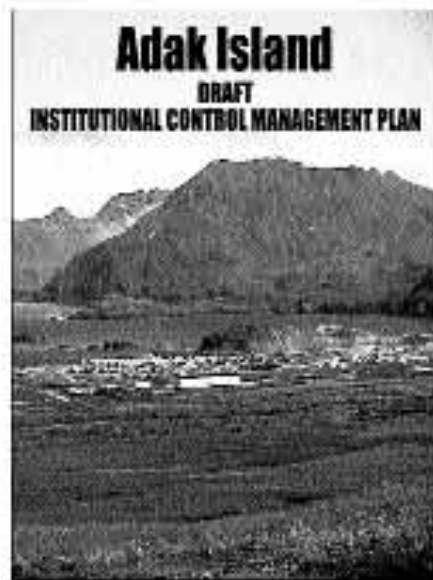
Anchorage and Adak information repositories and on the Adak web site, www.adakupdate.com.

According to the Navy's Project Manager and Environmental Specialist Patty Kelly, institutional controls are a variety of legal devices imposed to make sure that human health and the environment are protected. Institutional controls are used to make sure

land use restrictions and other environmental remedies stay in place in order to assure safety.

"The Navy is required to make sure institutional controls remain reliable for as long as the control remains in effect," she said.

The Draft Institutional Controls Management Plan serves several purposes; it details how current and future residents will be notified about environmental conditions and limits on property; outlines a process for inspection and maintenance of required controls; details how information to regulators will be tracked to make sure land uses in areas remains consistent with restrictions; and



establishes an educational plan to keep the Adak community aware

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Petroleum Site Status Report

Monitoring of petroleum sites on Adak is continuing, as is the evaluation of the environmental interim actions currently in place.

According to the Navy's Petroleum Project Manager Langston Walker, the Operable Unit "A" Record of Decision calls for evaluating the effectiveness of all interim actions that are in place with focused feasibility studies regarding petroleum cleanup. The ROD also requires that any enhancements to existing environmental remedies be fully evaluated.

"There are 10 sites on Adak where the environmental remedy selected in the Record of Decision called for 'monitored natural attenuation' to stabilize and reduce chemicals in the groundwater," Walker said.

Those 10 sites include two locations at Amulet Housing; Antenna

Field; the former Power Plant Building (T-1451); the Resident Officer in Charge of Construction Area UST-8; Runway 5-23 Aviation Gasoline Valve Pit; Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 14, the former Pesticide Storage Area; SWMU 15, the Future Jobs/Defense Reutilization Marketing Office; and SMWUs 60 and 61- Tank Farms A and B.

Walker said the Navy is undergoing a process of study and evaluation, similar to that employed by a focused feasibility study.

"Plans call for the development of fact sheets for stakeholder distribution and comments following the evaluation process," he said.

Walker said the nine sites currently being studied include: GCI Compound; Heating Plant No. 6; Old Transportation Building; Steam Plant No. 4; P80 Building; P81 Building; P 70 Energy Generator;

South of Runway 18-36; New Housing Fuel Leak; and Yakutat Hangar.

Five remaining sites with free-product will also be undergoing a focused feasibility study-like evaluation.

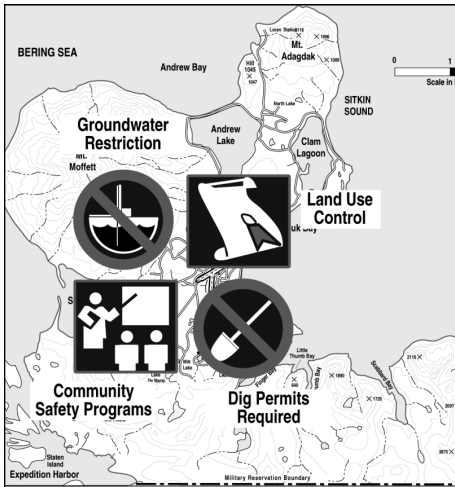
"Those sites are the Arctic Acres Housing Area; the Navy Marine Corps Building Expanded Area; the NORPAC Hill Seep; Tanker Shed; and Power Plant No. 3," he said.

Walker said that the upcoming field season on Adak for further petroleum evaluations is scheduled to begin about April 1, 2001.

Future Updates

If you have suggested topics you would like to see included in Adak Update, please contact Patty Kelly at 360-396-0049 or email her at kellypl@efanw.navfac.navy.mil.

Draft Institutional Controls Management Plan (cont.)



Education efforts and appropriate signage are fundamental to the success of institutional controls.

Continued from page 3 of land use restrictions.

Adak has soil excavation restrictions, Kelly said, that range from absolute restrictions on dig-

ging at former landfill sites to dig permit requirements. Adak institutional controls also restrict domestic use of groundwater in the downtown.

Controls are also in place to assure engineered remedies to contain and/or reduce contamination and physical barriers to limit property all remain in place.

Another important safety component outlined in the Draft Plan addresses effective communication and education in the community.

“Institutional control education is fundamental to their success,” Kelly said. “Input from the community will be crucial to the effectiveness of institutional controls and for the development of further educational efforts.”

Adak Update Mailing List

To be added to the Adak Update mailing list, please call Susan Christianson at 907-789-3098 or send your name, address and telephone number to chriscom@gci.net.

Check out the Web site for up-to-date information

www.adakupdate.com

Don't forget to visit www.adakupdate.com for up-to-date information on meetings, newly released documents or important events related to Adak.

Adak Update

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