

Special Project Adak Update

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



Agencies Agree to Take a Fresh Look at Adak

The Environmental Protection Agency, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and the United States Navy agreed to take a fresh look at ordnance cleanup efforts for Adak Island in Alaska's Aleutian chain.

The agencies will refocus

with reviewing scientific ordnance risk models and how those models apply to Adak. The team was also charged with developing an outline for revising plans for Adak cleanup.

"After the recent clarification of national policies, and after extensive review of sci-

"...the Navy believes our investigation of and work plan for Adak can and will be improved"

on how to characterize, identify, remediate and manage ordnance sites in Operating Unit B (OU-B) on the island.

At a recent meeting in Seattle, the three parties involved in the Federal Facility Agreement for cleanup of Adak agreed to form a technical project team charged

entific and technical materials, regulatory agency and stakeholder positions, the Navy believes our investigation of and work plan for Adak can and will be improved," said Richard Stoll, BRAC Environmental Coordinator at Engineering Field Activity NW, Naval



Photo courtesy of United States Navy

Facilities Command, in Poulsbo, Wash.

In addition to the DEC, EPA and the Navy, the project team will include stakeholders. Representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Aleut Corporation and the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association took part in the Seattle meeting and have been invited to participate on the project team.

An aggressive meeting schedule was set, with the first meeting held Aug. 11-12 and a second meeting held Aug. 18-19 in Anchorage.

In addition, the Navy plans to step up its efforts to provide timely and accurate information to all stakeholders involved in the Adak cleanup. Distribution of this newsletter on a monthly basis is a part of that commitment, Stoll said. The

Navy also plans to provide updated information as part of a new web site currently being developed. More information on how to access this site will follow in upcoming newsletters.

Where to Get 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

NAS Adak, Adak Island, Alaska,
High School Administration
M-F, 8 am to 5 pm,
Contact: Christopher Floro
907-592-8170

Administrative Record
Engineering Field Activity NW
19917 Seventh Ave., NW
Poulsbo, WA 98370

UPCOMING MEETINGS

A Restoration Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sept. 15 at Commander Christopher Floro's office on Adak. For more information please call Commander Floro at 907-592-8170. Others can participate in the meeting via teleconference from the Anchorage Holiday Inn, 239 W. 4th Ave.

Do You Know...

Do you know the history of land withdrawals on Adak?

Withdrawals of portions of Adak Island for various military purposes date back to 1901. Adak Island was reserved and set aside in 1913 as a preserve (managed by the Department of Interior) because of its value to seabirds, marine mammals and fisheries. Withdrawal of land for military purposes culminated in the 1959 with the withdrawal of the upper portion of the Island by the Navy.

Do you know that ordnance issues are being treated separately from other remedial efforts on Adak?

A Record of Decision will be published that includes agreed-upon cleanup remedies for the portion of the former Naval Air Facility on Adak called "Operable Unit A" (OU-A). The specific remediation actions concentrate on chemical and petroleum cleanup.

Remediation decisions came about after more than

10 years of investigation, study, and on-site work to characterize and evaluate chemical and petroleum remediation alternatives. Public comment has been part of the consultative process leading to cleanup decisions for Operable Unit A. Monthly Restoration Advisory Board meetings have included input from agency members and community groups.

The goal that guides the EPA, ADEC and Navy cleanup effort is "to protect human health and the environment."

Do you know what CERCLA is?

CERCLA stands for Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980. CERCLA is designed to protect human health and the environment from exposure to unsafe levels of contamination.

A series of State of Alaska laws and regulations also govern management of contaminated sites.



Photo courtesy of United States Navy

Do you know how federal and state laws protect human health and the environment on Adak in Operable Unit A?

The regulations set cleanup standards for soil and groundwater, and assure contaminated soil and water meet those standards. Cleanup procedures include physical means such as removal, incineration, containment, and administrative actions.

Do you know what "institutional controls" are?

In addition to cleanup actions sometimes property management safeguards are put in place to protect health and the environment. Commonly recognized administrative actions and safeguards include:

- warnings signs not to feed bears;

- requirements to carry garbage out of wilderness areas;
- requirements to maintain garbage in safely closed containers;
- warning signs near electrical boxes;
- requirements not to dig without checking for electrical cables.

These "institutional controls" are commonly accepted practices put in place to assure community safety.

In Operable Unit A, institutional safety measures include:

- zoning (for industrial or recreational use,);
- permits for digging;
- fishing advisories for Sweeper Cove and Kuluk Bay;
- fencing;
- signage to warn of potential risks in the remote areas.

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**Engineering Field Activity, Northwest
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