

# Adak Island UPDATE

## Institutional Controls Education



### Introduction

August 2006

The Navy conducted interviews on Adak during September 2005, as part of the annual Institutional Controls (IC) site inspection. The IC site inspection is performed to ensure that the ICs incorporated into Records of Decision (RODs) for Adak remain effective and reliable for as long as they are needed.

Both newly arrived and longer-term residents were surveyed, in an effort to determine if Adak residents were familiar with the various ICs in place. A total of 14 people were interviewed, including a visitor who had been on island for less than 30 days to 8 people who have lived on Adak for longer than one year.

The survey results show that all individuals interviewed were aware that land use controls (a subset of ICs) are in place

for designated areas on Adak. About 70% of those interviewed were aware of the requirement to provide excavation notification prior to performing intrusive work at an IC site. Half of those interviewed knew there was an ordnance safety awareness program, and had viewed the UXO awareness video / DVD. A little more than a third of those interviewed were familiar with the fish / shellfish advisory currently in place on Adak. Fewer than a tenth of the people interviewed were aware that the Navy maintained a toll-free telephone number and e-mail address for people to contact if they have questions regarding the ongoing cleanup at Adak.

The results of the survey indicate that a majority of individuals that have resided on Adak for one year or longer are fairly

familiar with ICs, the excavation notification process and the unexploded ordnance (UXO) safety awareness program. New island residents and visitors seem less well informed.

With the survey results in mind, this fact sheet has been prepared to review IC measures and summarize pertinent information regarding the following: ICs and engineering controls (ECs); IC site excavation notification / prohibition; groundwater use restrictions; fish / shellfish advisories; ordnance awareness education; and Navy contact and information sources.

### Institutional Controls (ICs)

Institutional Controls (ICs) is a term that refers, broadly, to administrative or engineering measures that are in place to protect the health of people living on Adak. They are an integral part of the selected cleanup remedy for areas affected by residual chemical contamination (fuels, solvents) or UXO. ICs are also put in place to ensure that remediation

equipment remains effective and operating properly until cleanup levels are reached. On Adak, such IC measures include:

- land use restrictions
- excavation notification / prohibition
- groundwater use restrictions
- fish / shellfish consumption advisory
- UXO awareness program
- land use control inspections.

Engineering controls are physical items put in place to protect human health and the environment. On Adak, these include:

- fences and signs designating the Navy-retained property,
- landfill covers,
- treatment and monitoring systems, such as groundwater monitoring wells and ancillary product recovery piping.

## IC Site Excavation Notification / Prohibition

Soil excavation restrictions are in place on Adak to protect residents from possible contact with residual chemical constituents and to prevent disturbance of ICs in place. Two types of soil excavation restrictions are in place on Adak.



**Institutional Control Excavation Notification:** These notifications are required for excavations planned for a depth of 2 feet or greater

at each site governed by an IC (Figures 1 and 2). The intent of submitting notification prior to excavation commencing is to allow the Navy time to evaluate excavation projects at these sites and to make sure that the proposed activity remains consistent with the land use assumptions. A copy of the current Navy Institutional Control Excavation Notification is available on AdakUpdate.com (Click on ICs on right side of Home Page,

then Dig Permit on left-hand column of IC page). The form can be filled out online, or FAXed to Jim Brown at **360-396-0897**.



**Absolute Excavation Prohibition:** Digging is prohibited at some sites where protective covers are in place as a remedy, such as landfills.

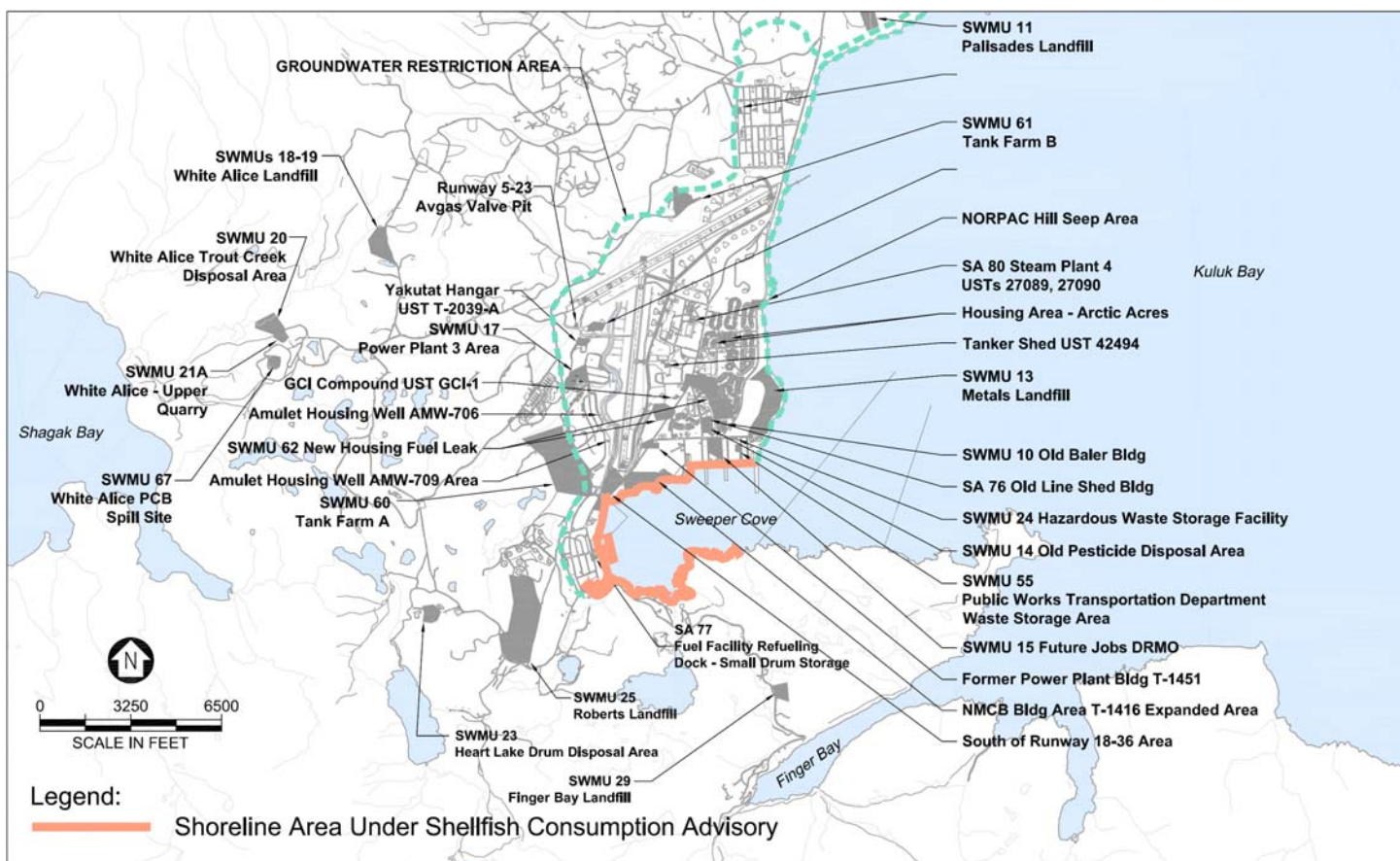


Figure 1  
Location of Institutional Control Sites (Downtown Area)  
and Shoreline Area Under Shellfish Consumption Advisory

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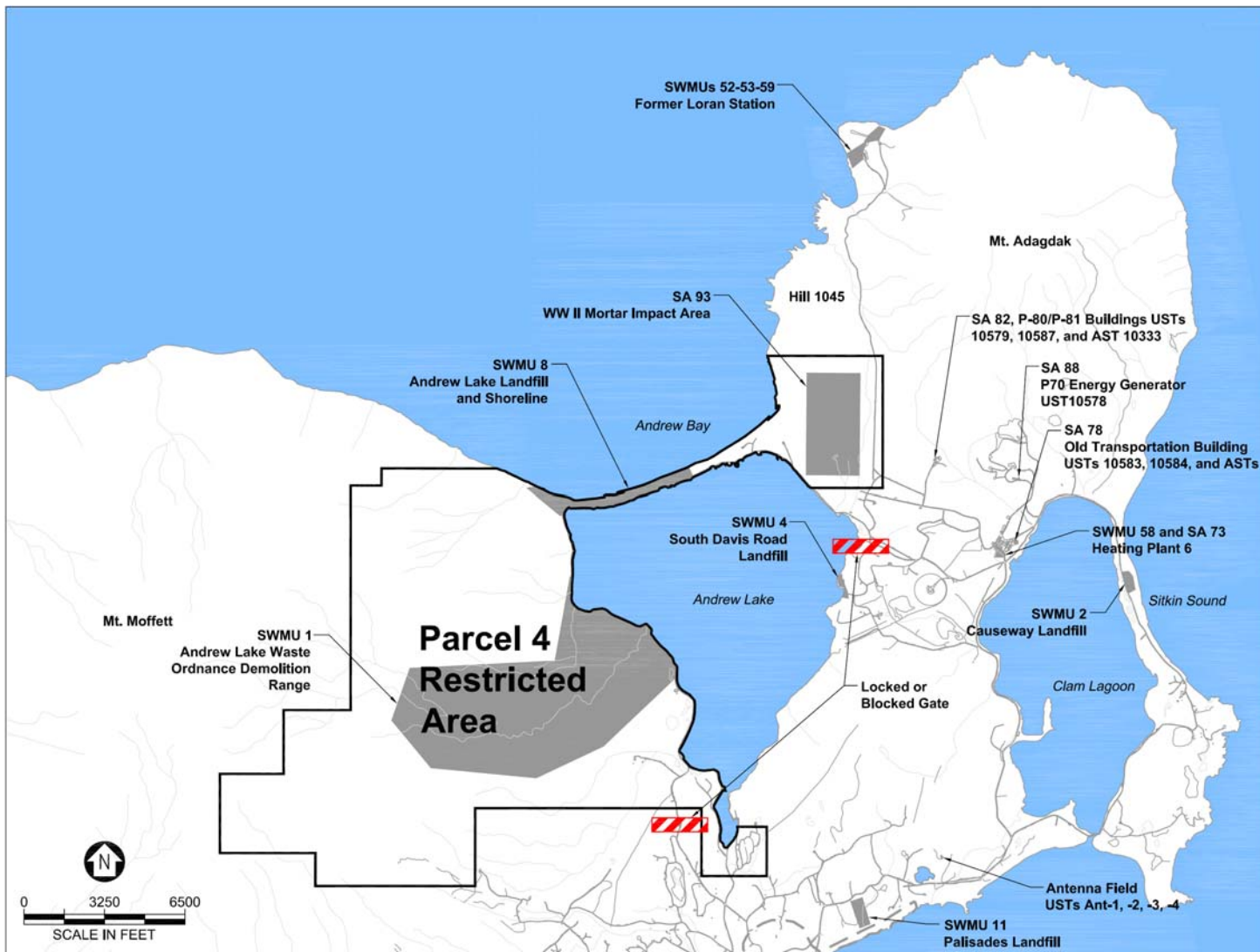


Figure 2  
Location of Institutional Control Sites (Remote Area) and Parcel 4 Restricted Area

## Groundwater Use Restrictions



Domestic use of groundwater in the downtown area of Adak is restricted because of the potential for residual petroleum compounds and other chemicals to be present in the groundwater

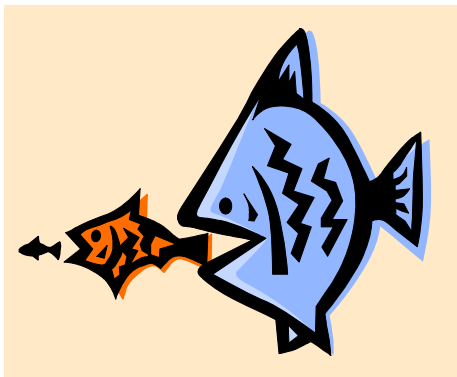
(Refer to Figure 1.0). The IC excavation notification program addresses control of drilling activities, while annual IC site inspections address unauthorized use of groundwater and checking for incompatible land use activities near cleanup sites.

For Adak, the source of the local drinking water is a surface water body (lake) located in a remote area of Adak. Adak's drinking water does not come from the local groundwater aquifer.

### Fish / Shellfish Consumption Advisory

From 1999 through 2005, the Navy has been sampling rock sole and blue mussel in Adak's Sweeper Cove and Kuluk Bay, as mandated by the ROD. The purpose of this sampling is to see how much polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, these fish and shellfish contain, in order to determine when the consumption advisory could be lifted. Rock sole and blue mussels were selected for evaluation because they are readily available sources of seafood at Adak, and may contact either sediment or water containing PCBs. Both species were found to contain higher than normal levels of PCBs.

Currently, there is a health advisory for Adak fish / shellfish consumption. The advisory provides consumption guidelines for rock sole caught in Sweeper Cove and Kuluk Bay and blue mussels



gathered from Sweeper Cove (refer to shoreline area highlighted in Figure 1). The guideline is intended for subsistence fishers or those individuals whose diet is made up primarily of fish and shellfish caught locally. The advisory covers only rock sole and blue mussel caught locally. The advisory does not apply to other

species of fish, such as salmon or halibut, caught in these same water bodies.

More detailed information regarding suggested meal limits, ways to prepare fish fillets to reduce PCBs (stored in fatty tissue), the health effects associated with PCBs and a reference list are presented in the October 2003 Fact Sheet. The January 2006 Fact Sheet presents a summary of the sampling results for 1999 to 2005, graphically depicts trends in PCB concentrations in rock sole and blue mussels from the two embayments and emphasizes important health messages. Alaska's Division of Public Health is not associated with the fish / shellfish consumption advisory, and places no consumption restrictions on fish or shellfish from Alaska. Both fact sheets are available on the AdakUpdate.com web site.

### Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Awareness Program

The Adak UXO Awareness Program, tailored for the current civilian population, has been in place since early 2004. It discusses the history of ordnance use, storage, handling, and disposal on Adak Island; basic characteristics of ordnance items; and the procedures that should be followed if a suspected ordnance item is found, as summarized in the text box shown here.

If you have not viewed the UXO Ordnance Awareness video / DVD and would like

to, a free DVD copy can be provided to you by contacting the toll-free number

listed below or by e-mailing your request to [jim.r.brown@navy.mil](mailto:jim.r.brown@navy.mil).

#### UXO Reporting Procedure:

If you locate an item you believe could possibly be a suspect UXO item, do not touch, disturb, or remove the item from its location. Contact the local on-island law enforcement official in person or by calling 911 as soon as possible. Once the law enforcement official has been contacted, provide as much information as possible on location, item size, shape, etc. The law enforcement official will then contact the Army's Explosive Ordnance Unit (907-384-7600) at Fort Richardson, AK for recovery and disposal.

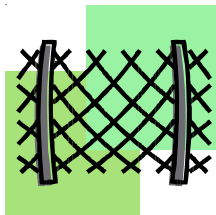


A portion of Adak known as Parcel 4 has yet to undergo UXO cleanup. The area is located on the west-southwest side of Lake Andrew near Mt. Moffett. Ordnance hazard signs are in place around portions of the property, along with fencing and locked gates (refer to Figure 2 for Parcel 4 boundary and locked gate locations). Access to the area is restricted to Navy personnel and their contractors.

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### Land Use Control Inspections

The Navy will continue annual monitoring and site inspections to document the effectiveness of ICs at Adak. If a problem is identified that cannot wait for the next scheduled annual inspection, a contingency inspection can be performed to expedite a corrective action. As inspection data are obtained and evaluated



over time, the ICs may need to be modified to provide continued protection of human health and the environment. If changes to the ICs are required, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) must approve them.

### Contact and Information Sources

#### Adak Website:

<http://www.AdakUpdate.com>

The Navy maintains an internet website to keep the community and other stakeholders informed of ongoing activities related to environmental cleanup. Many important technical documents, fact sheets, and other educational material are available on the above referenced website.



#### Toll-Free Telephone Number or INFOLINE:

1 - 866 - 239 - 1219

The Navy maintains an information line that has a pre-recorded message which directs callers to leave questions or comments for Navy personnel who are familiar with the environmental investigation and cleanup work being conducted on Adak Island. Appropriate Navy staff will return callers requests for information.

#### E-mail Address

Adak residents and visitors can also direct questions regarding the on-going environmental cleanup to [jim.r.brown@navy.mil](mailto:jim.r.brown@navy.mil)

#### Adak Information Repositories

EPA requires that an information repository be established for Superfund sites. An information repository is a records storage area at or near a Superfund site that contains correspondence, reports, and documents pertaining to the site. At an information repository, people can research the site and the law pertaining to the cleanup and learn how to participate in the cleanup process.

The Adak Repository is located on the 2nd floor of Bob Reeves High School, above the City of Adak offices. If you are interested in viewing any of the documents in the repository, contact Steve Hines at 592-4500 or E-mail: [adakcity@corecom.net](mailto:adakcity@corecom.net).

