

Special Project Adak Update

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2000

United States Navy
Special Edition



Land Exchange Agreement Approved by The Aleut Corporation Board Agreement Paves Way for Continued Commercial Reuse of Adak

The Board of Directors of The Aleut Corporation met Thursday, Aug. 10, 2000, and approved a land exchange agreement between the United States Navy, the Department of Interior and The Aleut Corporation (TAC). The Corporation's action paves the way for formal signing of the agreement by all parties and its ratification by the United States Congress.

Once signed and ratified, the land exchange will transfer just over 47,000 acres of the former Naval Air Facility Adak to TAC in exchange for an equal amount of Aleut land holdings. The Aleut Corporation holdings under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

will return to the Department of the Interior and the Alaska Maritime Wildlife Refuge.

The Navy closed the former Naval Air Facility in March 1997 pursuant to the Department of Defense base closure process.

"This agreement is a key milestone toward commercial reuse and development for Adak," said Bob Uhrich, Director of Land Management at Engineering Field Activity Northwest, the Navy's chief negotiator of the land transfer agreement. "The major provisions of the land exchange should give the State of Alaska, future investors and business people – as well as current community members – a great deal of confidence in regard



to living and doing business on Adak."

The agreement's provisions

In addition to the land transfer itself – expected to take place within the next two years – Navy buildings and facilities, such as the airport, piers, fuel farm, housing, schools, warehouses and roadways will all transfer to TAC.

"This transfer agreement is a win-win-win for the Department of Interior, Navy and TAC," Uhrich said.

"Interior benefits by obtaining higher quality wildlife habitat and reducing in-holdings throughout the wildlife refuge. The Navy benefits by carrying out its mission to dispose of proper-

ty it no longer needs at closed bases, and TAC benefits by obtaining property with millions of dollars of buildings and facilities, many of which create opportunities for economic development and job creation."

The Aleut Corporation and Adak Reuse Corporation now also have a stronger combination of tools to use to show companies and investors interested in doing business on Adak that the Navy has dealt responsibly with environmental issues, he said.

The land transfer agreement contains a number of provisions designed to assure that environmental conditions are not an issue for future business development on Adak.

Upcoming Meetings

Restoration Advisory Board

The next Restoration Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. August 23 on Adak. Anchorage residents can participate (the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Anchorage time) via teleconference from the Holiday Inn in Anchorage. For more information, please call 1-800-360-1561.

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

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



"The agreement sets forth the Navy's continuing responsibility for any remaining environmental issues resulting from Department of Defense activities and contains provisions that specifically deal with any future discovery of previously unknown Department of Defense contamination."

Environmental remedies

Both state and federal environmental regulators recently signed a Record of Decision that selects and decides remedies for all petroleum and chemical contamination issues and the Navy has fully implemented most of those remedies.

"And the Navy remains

responsible for the long-term effectiveness of all those remedies," Uhrich said.

The Navy is also comprehensively addressing ordnance issues primarily dating back to World War II, in partnership with state and federal environmental regulators as well as Aleut representatives.

"The areas most likely to be the focus of near-term commercial reuse activities - in and around the developed 'downtown' area - have already been extensively investigated," Uhrich said.

"Several factors illustrate the Navy's commitment to environmental responsibility at Adak. These include the completed investigations, decisions and implementation of petroleum and chemical remedies, the ongoing efforts to address unexploded ordnance, and the land transfer document's guaran-

tee of continuing environmental responsibility. The Navy's ongoing environmental role enables TAC to concentrate on marketing Adak based on its business merits," Uhrich said.

Future editions of Adak Update will continue to address matters of interest related to environmental cleanup at Adak.

**For More Information
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1-800-360-1561**

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