

# Special Project Adak Update

December  
2000

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



## Operable Unit B Remedial Investigation Report Underway

The Navy, in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, made substantial progress last summer with the ordnance

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investigation work on Adak. The Navy is currently preparing a comprehensive Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study that will include the results of the work completed during the 2000

field season.

Mark Murphy, the lead Navy Project Manager, stated, "The goal of the Operable Unit B work is to move toward a Record of Decision and complete the land transfer agreement signed in September. The RI/FS is a major step forward toward that goal."

He went on to state that the Operable Unit B work reflects a strong commitment by all those involved to resolve the ordnance issues and move forward with a future reuse of the island. Those involved include the Navy, EPA, ADEC, as



***The M/V Arctic Wolf, owned by Fairweather Inc., provided assistance during the Summer 2000 field season on Adak.***

well as representatives from the Aleutian Pribilof Island Association, the Adak Reuse Corporation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the community.

More than 60 people worked over 59,000 hours in the field before weather ended the 2000 field season. According to Navy ordnance expert Doug Murray, "The work done last summer exceeded our expectations with regard to the areas surveyed and unexploded ordnance removed. Over 750 miles were walked by geophysical technicians using state-of-the art subsurface metal detectors. The result has been a complete geophysical investigation of the 70 sites on the island suspected of containing UXO and

### Upcoming Meetings

#### Restoration Advisory Board

The next Restoration Advisory Board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Anchorage time (6 p.m. Adak time) on Feb. 21, 2001 in the 1st Floor Main Conference Room at the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, 555 Cordova Street, Anchorage.

Please be sure to check the Web site for any updates on location or time or call 1-800-360-1561 for more information.

Anyone interested in reviewing minutes of the Restoration Advisory Board can check [www.adakupdate.com](http://www.adakupdate.com) or call Jeannette at 907-258-4880 to request to be added to the RAB mailing list.

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## Operable Unit B Remedial Investigation (cont.)

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the complete intrusive investigation of 65 of those sites."

"More than 6,000 anomalies were detected," Murray said, "and technicians were able to dig 4,417 of those anomalies. Of the more than 4,000 items dug, 197 were identified as unexploded or abandoned ordnance. There were 1,104 ordnance fragments found and 2,083 non-ordnance items dug up."

Murray said there were no surprises that resulted from the extensive work completed. "The UXO we found this year were in areas where we expected to find them and they were of the types and sizes we'd seen in previous years."

The next step in the process, he said, is to complete the intrusive investigation at higher elevations where bad weather and snow cover shut workers out.

Murphy stated that the Draft RI/FS will be available for review and copies will be placed in the information repositories in Anchorage and on Adak when it is completed. According to Murphy, the expected completion date for the document is February of 2001.

A summary of the report will be presented on the [www.adakupdate.com](http://www.adakupdate.com) web site, with an opportunity for people to order compact disk copies of the document.

Following the completion of the RI/FS report, a proposed Remedial Action Work Plan will be completed. The Navy will make the work plan available in the information repository at Anchorage and Adak for public review.



**More than 60 people spent almost 59,000 field hours walking through a variety of sites as part of the geophysical data collection and UXO remediation work completed on Adak. The above map is available at the information repositories and as part of documents posted to [www.adakupdate.com](http://www.adakupdate.com).**

## Second Class City Status

In mid-October the State of Alaska Local Boundary Commission approved the incorporation of Adak as a local government. Although the Boundary Commission approved substantially reduced boundaries than had been requested by local residents, the move paves the way for Adak to become a second-class city in Alaska.

The Adak Community Council had requested incorporation of the entire Aleutian island, 676 square miles of land and surrounding bays and waters, but the Boundary Commission, by a 5-0 vote, approved incorporation of just 72 square miles of land and water, an area that includes the traditional "downtown" Adak and Sweeper Cove. Final approval of second-class city status must come from voters in a local election scheduled for sometime in early 2001. The Commission also required that voters approve a 3 percent sales tax and a 2 percent fuel tax as conditions of incorporation.

## Technical Documents Update

The following documents are added to the Adak Web site, [www.adakupdate.com](http://www.adakupdate.com), and to the Anchorage and Adak information repositories.

### Draft Final Comprehensive Monitoring Plan

The purpose of the Comprehensive Monitoring Plan is to ensure that the environmental cleanup remedies selected in the Operable Unit A Record of Decision remain compliant with the applicable laws and regulations, and to ensure that the remedies remain protective of human health and the environment. The CMP describes the Navy's procedures for long-term monitoring at OU A and the approach for environmental sampling for petroleum and nonpetroleum chemicals of con-

cern. In addition, visual inspections of monitoring wells and landfill caps are included.

### Draft Final Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Work Plan

The purpose of the RI/FS Work Plan is to present the approach for collection and analysis of data at sites potentially contaminated with unexploded ordnance (UXO) at Operable Unit B on Adak.

The data collected during this and previous investigations will be used to provide input to the hazard assessment methodology, and will aid in the selection of areas to be further evaluated, remediated, or no further action.

This document was posted to the Web site in November 2000.

## Land Transfer Agreement

As a follow-up to the article in the last issue of Adak Update, the Navy, Department of Interior and the Aleut Corporation signed a land transfer agreement in late September that paves the way for reuse of the former Adak Naval Complex. Congress is expected to ratify the land transfer agreement in 2001. The land exchange is expected to be finalized in 2002, after additional environmental work is completed and additional transfer documents finalized.

The terms of the agreement include the Navy maintaining its responsibility for the environmental cleanup and unexploded ordnance as a result of past military activities.

The Navy will also carry out environmental investigations and remediation agreed to under the

Base Realignment and Closure Cleanup Plan; the Records of Decisions for Operable Units A and B, and required under applicable law.

It was also agreed that the Navy will indemnify the Aleut Corporation, or any person or entity that leases or buys property on the former Adak Naval Complex, of any claims that resulted from military activities, provided the provisions in the agreement are followed.

### 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](mailto:chriscom@gci.net).

## ADEC Names New Project Manager

Elim Yoon was named the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's new Adak Project Manager. She has assumed all the responsibilities of former ADEC Project Manager Tess Carr, who left the Department to pursue her education.

Yoon came to the ADEC in October from a previous position with Jacobs Engineering, where she served as a task manager for a consulting project in Kodiak.

She worked with Jacobs Engineering for three years prior to joining the Department. Yoon is a graduate of the University of California Berkeley, with a degree in Geology.

"I was interested in taking the position with the Department to have a chance to learn more about the regulatory side of environmental cleanup," she said.

She can be reached at 907-269-7528.

### 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

NAF Adak, Adak Island, Alaska,  
Bob Reeve High School Library  
M-F, 8 am to 5 pm, 907-592-8170  
Contact: BU1 Ron O'Toole

Richard Stoll, BRAC Environmental Coordinator  
Engineering Field Activity NW  
19917 Seventh Ave., NW  
Poulsbo, WA 98370

[www.adakupdate.com](http://www.adakupdate.com)

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## OU-B: What's Next?

During the next several months the Navy will prepare a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report – a comprehensive report on the results of all the work completed during the 2000 field season. The report will be available for state and federal agency review in February and will be available at the [www.adakupdate.com](http://www.adakupdate.com) web site and in the Adak information repositories.

Following the RI/FS report, a proposed Remedial Action Work Plan will be completed. Review of that plan will be completed by both federal and state agencies and will include a formal public comment period, said Project Manager Murphy. The Work Plan will be based on the site investigation and the wide range of data compiled as a result of the ordnance investigation work on Adak.

The OU-B project team, which

includes the Navy, the EPA and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, as well as representatives from the Aleutian Pribilof Island Association (A/PIA) and Adak Reuse Corp., has been meeting throughout the summer and fall and will continue to meet as the process moves forward, Murray said.

The Project Team has most recently been working to describe what methods will be used to define the hazards posed by ordnance found at very specific sites on Adak, looking at defining specific alternatives for reducing risks, and continuing to review data.

"The goal of the Operable Unit B work process is to move toward a Record of Decision on environmental remedies. With that work complete, there can then be finalization of the land transfer agreement," Murphy said.

### Next Issue

The next Adak Update topics will include petroleum cleanup efforts and landfill monitoring. If you have suggested topics you would like to see included, please contact Patty Kelly at 360-396-0049 or email her at [kellypl@efanw.navfac.navy.mil](mailto:kellypl@efanw.navfac.navy.mil).

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

**[www.adakupdate.com](http://www.adakupdate.com)**

Don't forget to visit  
**[www.adakupdate.com](http://www.adakupdate.com)** for  
up-to-date information on meetings,  
newly released documents or  
important events related to Adak.

## Adak Update

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