

Special Project Adak Update

July
2001

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



Adak School Children Design Sign Icons Ordnance and Safety Awareness Pilot Program Planned for School Children

The Adak public schools' headmaster, Matthew DeGraffenreid, and Adak's 4th grade school students met with Navy representatives on May 29 to discuss their

“...the students suggested the words “Be Safe” and “Be Aware” be put on the signs and educational material to reflect the message their grandparents would deliver to them as they went outdoors...”



Adak school children helped design an icon to be used on safety signage. This “great grandfather” is saying “Be Aware!”

ideas for icons to be used for the Adak ordnance safety awareness and land use control programs on the island.

Adak students who participated were Isaiah Johnson, Scott

Galanin, Jennifer Zacharof, Jordan Johnson, Troy Jacko, Alex Galanin, Samuel DeGraffenreid, and their family and friends.

The icons students developed will be used with environmental

educational materials and signs to advise residents and visitors of potential ordnance hazards.

According to Patty Kelly, the Navy Project Manager, Mr. DeGraffenreid first led the students in a discussion about the historical use of Adak by the Aleuts and the military. The students then quickly focused on using an Aleut grandmother and grandfather to deliver a message of safety and awareness to the Adak residents and visitors.

The class role played how an Aleut grandmother and grandfather might look if they were trying to warn their family and friends

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RAB Meeting Schedule

An informal RAB meeting will be held on August 22, 2001. Adak RAB members will gather at 6 p.m. Adak time at the Adak City Hall Building (formerly Bob Reeve High School).

The Anchorage RAB will gather at 7 p.m. Anchorage time. Please check the Adak web site, www.adakupdate.com, for the location of the Anchorage meeting site.

Adak School Children Design Sign Icons (cont.)



"Be Safe!" is the warning this "great-great grandmother" will give to Adak residents on signs designed by Adak school children.

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about potential island hazards.

Kelly said students also suggested using the words "Be Safe" and "Be Aware" on signs and in educational materials to reflect the message their grandparents would deliver if they went outdoors.

It was also suggested that both English and the Aleut language, Unungax, be used on informational signs.

The Navy will use the students suggestions and incorporate their ideas into the Navy's Environmental Institutional Control and Educational Program on Adak.

Kelly said the icons will also be used in developing additional educational materials. "I hope that when the community looks

at the icons they take pride in the efforts of the students," she said.

"I found it extremely interesting how well the students understood their heritage, the island, and the land use restrictions, and the students' ability to bring all the concepts together into icons we can use in our environmental program," Kelly said.

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,
Adak City Hall Building
M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The CSO Office on Adak is now
located at Sandy Cove Housing, 101 C
Contact: Ron O'Toole
907-592-4351

Adak Update Mailing List

To be added to the Adak Update mailing list, please call Susan Christianson, 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

Summer Fieldwork On Track

The Navy committed project funds in fiscal year 2001 totaling \$17.4 million for the environmental cleanup and land transfer of Adak.

The work to be completed this field season includes ordnance investigations and cleanup; petroleum product recovery and site management; long-term monitoring; institutional control management implementation; unsafe building and cabin demolition; waste management; airport ditch culvert installation; Roberts Landfill Closure and long-term monitoring.

The Navy also maintains a Caretaker Site Office on Adak and oversees environmental compliance of activities on the island, as well as the environmental cleanup work.

Given the challenges of island

transportation and the increased costs associated with them early in the field season, the Navy has been able to maintain it's original schedule except for the pipeline abandonment at Tank Farm A-1 and Traffic Circle.

The pipeline abandonment work will be rescheduled at a later date. Both projects are considered low risk sites.

Additionally, Navy has coordinated with The Aleut Corporation in identifying specific facilities determined to be unsafe that will be demolished.

The US Environmental Protection Agency and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation are overseeing the summer environmental work on Adak.

Navy Proposes Remedies for OU "B1"

The Navy, with concurrence from the Operable Unit B Project Team, distributed their proposed plan for the Operable Unit B-1 remedies and held public meetings on Adak and Anchorage on May 29 and 31, respectively.

The Operable Unit B Project Team consists of representatives from the Navy, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation; The Aleut Corporation; the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association; the US Fish and Wildlife Service; and community members.

OU B-1 includes 130 ordnance explosives (OE) or unexploded ordnance (UXO) areas of concern (AOCs, or sites). OU B-1 addresses the ordnance sites within the former Adak Naval Complex with the exception of areas in the vicinity of Mt. Moffett and Andrew Lake.

According to Mark Murphy, the Navy's Lead Project Manager, ordnance educational awareness programs and incorporation of deed notices in property transfer documents will be implemented throughout the former Adak Naval Complex that will encompass these 130 sites. No Further Action is proposed for 104 of the 130 sites.

Murphy said OE/UXO clearance to 4 feet below ground surface will be conducted at three of the remaining 26 sites. The remaining 23 sites will undergo final characterization and clearance as needed to support future land use. Fourteen of the 23 sites will have soil sampled for explosives-related chemicals and will have soil removed, treated, and disposed of either on site or



OU B Project Team members recently visited ordnance sites on Adak. Pictured here (left to right) are EPA Project Manager Kevin Oates, Navy Project Manager Mark Murphy, A/PIA Project Team Member Chris Riggio and ADEC Project Manager Elim Yoon.

offsite, as necessary. No Further Action was proposed for 104 of the OU B-1 sites, based on initial screening efforts by the Adak OU-B Project Team and on eval-

"...alternatives spanned a wide range from no further action, to surface clearance, to surface and subsurface clearance, to sampling for ordnance compounds and removal and disposal of explosives and contaminated soils..."

uations completed as part of the Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) process.

Mr. Murphy also stated that the major components of the no further action sites include continuing the Adak OE/UXO awareness program. The program

applies to the entire military reservation at Adak, including areas that are part of OU B-1.

This program is intended to familiarize island residents and visitors with the history of ordnance use, storage, handling, and disposal on Adak Island; basic characteristics of OE/UXO items on Adak; and the procedures that should be followed if a suspected OE/UXO item is encountered.

Murphy explained the methodology used for the investigation of the OU B-1 sites. The factors primarily considered were the likelihood of ordnance in a particular area based on historical information, the characteristics of the ordnance in an area and the dangers associated with them; and the accessibility of the ordnance and whether or not people are likely to encounter it.

Those factors were input into an explosive safety hazard assessment screening. The overall weighted score placed sites

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Navy Proposes Remedies for OU "B1" (cont.)

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into five explosives safety hazard categories to reflect potential response options. Murphy explained that the lowest hazard levels (A and B) called for no further action, while levels C through E required the sites receiving those scores to be addressed specifically in a Feasibility Study.

After completion of the assessment process, three sites were carried through the Feasibility Study: Combat Range #3, Combat Range #6 and the Mitt Lake Impact Area, Murphy said. Murphy explained that because of the limitations of current technology, challenging terrain and topography associated with sites on Adak, it is not possible to completely eliminate the potential

for encountering OE/UXO on Adak.

Because of that, the cleanup goal for OU B, as agreed to by the Project Team, was to reduce the potential for exposure to ordnance and unexploded ordnance hazards to a degree that will enable the hazards to be managed, he said.

In order to reduce and manage hazards, the Project Team cleanup alternatives spanned a wide range from no further action, to surface clearance, to surface and subsurface clearance, to sampling for ordnance compounds and removal and disposal of explosives and contaminated soils.

The continuation of the Adak ordnance and unexploded ordnance education and awareness

programs and disclosure of investigation and cleanup information during the land transfer process are also important components of hazard management, he said. Murphy also outlined the costs of various proposed alternatives.

He explained that costs ranged from lows of \$50,000 per site on no further action sites to highs of \$299,000 for a subsurface clearance at an individual site, and \$550,000 for the 23 subsurface clearance sites selected for the 2001 field season.

A Record of Decision is expected by the end of 2001, and a Finding of Suitability for Transfer of the property included in Operable Unit B-1 is still on track for 2002, Murphy said.

Adak Update

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