

Special Project Adak Update

October
1999

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



Process for Ordnance Cleanup Moves Forward

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Navy, as well as the stakeholders involved in the environmental cleanup of Adak, have agreed to applying a recognized federal process for environmental cleanup to ordnance issues on Adak.

Although the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) - otherwise known as Superfund - has had limited application to ordnance clearance, the agencies involved in the

move forward on ordnance cleanup.

CERCLA has been used for almost 20 years and provides well established guidelines, predictable steps and nationally recognized standards and criteria aimed at protection of human health and the environment.

Environmental work on



Kevin Oates, Mike Hoxie, Mark Murphy and Ernesta Ballard were part of the OU-B Technical team meeting on Adak.

Photo courtesy of URS Greiner

“...the primary goals of the OU-B technical team were to refine the decision-analysis framework for ordnance issues on Adak and to establish data quality objectives.”

Adak cleanup agreed to use the CERCLA framework to determine how to

Adak is organized into two programs called Operable Unit A (OU-A) and Opera-

ble Unit B (OU-B). In OU-A petroleum and chemical cleanup is addressed. In OU-B ordnance issues are being considered.

The technical team dealing with ordnance issues met in Adak Sept. 13-16 to determine precise steps to be taken to achieve solutions tailored to Adak and based on nationally recognized CERCLA procedures. The team, consisting of state and federal agencies with regulatory responsibility for the project, also included representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Aleut Corporation, Aleut/Pribilof Association, and numerous consultants with expertise in ordnance issues.

One of the primary goals of the Adak meeting was to refine the decision-analysis framework to be used for making determinations about Adak ordnance cleanup and to establish data quality objectives. A decision analysis framework directs field work, and

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

A Restoration Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Oct. 20 at the Lathrop Room, 4th Avenue Theater, 630 W. 4th Ave. Adak residents can participate in the meeting via teleconference from the Commander's Conference Room in the Adak High School (6 p.m. Adak time). For more information please call 1-800-360-1561.

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Ordnance Cleanup Continues



sions can then be made based on risk assessments and public opinion and comment.

Risk management actions can include treatment, disposal and institutional controls that include access restrictions. Usually a combination of these actions are included as part of Superfund

cleanup to the best methods for finding unexploded ordnance on the island. The technical team's decision to include ordnance experts, and a wide range of environmental experts on the team provides a broader base for making informed decisions on Adak cleanup issues. In addition, the participation of the community and the expertise of those who live on the island provides important information for those making final risk management decisions.

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planning for cleanup in an orderly sequence of increasingly focused analysis. The framework defines sources of contamination, looks at how those sources can impact the environment or human health and considers land use and potential exposure pathways.

Data quality objectives guide collection of information for a project. The decision framework and the data quality objectives work together to correctly characterize the site risks. Risk management deci-

cleanup projects.

The process for determining these steps for Adak is a complex one. There are a number of areas to be considered and a wide range of both historic and recent information to be analyzed in determining everything from sites to be considered for



Adak Project Personnel Move On



Cora



Oates



Floro

Chris Cora, who has served as the EPA Remedial Project Manager on the Adak project since 1995, took on other responsibilities at the EPA in October. At the September RAB meeting in Adak,

Chris' dedication to the project was recognized by the Restoration Advisory Board, agency personnel and community members.

Kevin Oates, who has spent the past 2 ½ years serving the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation on loan from the EPA will assume the EPA Remedial Project Manager duties. The ADEC project manager has not yet been appointed.

Commander Christopher Floro is also leaving Adak for other work in the Pacific Northwest. Commander Floro will continue to work for EFA Northwest in the Poulsbo, Washington Area. he will be replaced as NAF Adak Commander by Lt. Commander Ted Posuniak.

Complete Information Repository Sent to Adak

The Bob Reeves High School Library will be the home for the Adak Information Repository and the duplicate Administrative Record.

In response to concerns raised by the Adak Community Council a complete set of all information, studies and reports generated as part of the Adak closure has been duplicated for easier access and use by Adak residents. The goal of the Navy is to have the information sent to Adak mid-October.

The Navy is requesting that anyone interested in using the materials on Adak abide by the same rules as apply to the information available in Anchorage: all materials must remain in the library and be used there. This rule allows for materials to be accessible to anyone.

For more information on the exact date the materials will arrive, Adak residents are asked to check with the Commander's office.

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,
Bob Reeves Hih School Library
M-F, 8 am to 5 pm,
Contact: Lt. Commander
Ted Posuniak
907-592-8170

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

Public Meetings Held on Adak

Two public meetings as well as a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting were also held in Adak in

for OU-A and for a question and answer session attended by about 40 community members and contractors

Fox Corporation - the Saxon ANCSA Corporation. In addition, Chris Cora - the EPA's Remedial Project Manager during the OU-A process, Kevin Oates - Project Manager for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for the past several years, Mark Murphy - the Navy's Environmental Project Manager, and Doug Murray

national, all participated in the question and answer session at the public meeting.

Adak RAB members Cathy Villa and Agafon Krukoff also attended the public meeting, as did RAB co-chairman Elary Gromoff of The Aleut Corporation.

A number of questions were raised by community members relative to com-



Elary Gromoff of the Aleut Corp. and Chris Gates of the Aleut Enterprise Corp.

September. The meetings included an informal opportunity to meet with technical team members as well as an environmental update held in the Adak High School gym. The public meetings provided the opportunity for an overview of the process used to reach decisions on petroleum and chemical cleanup

on Adak. Commander Christopher Floro chaired the public meeting.

Ernesta Ballard, owner of Ballard and Associates gave an overview of the CERCLA process. Ballard is the former Regional Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency Region X and a former CEO of the Cape



Commander Christopher Floro and Adak RAB member Cathy Villa.

- an ordnance and explosives waste management specialist with Radian Inter-

community concerns over PCB levels, the safety of fishing in Sweeper Cove and concerns over Finger Bay. At the Restoration Advisory Board meeting held on Sept. 15, members of the Adak Community Council presented a memorandum listing major issues of community concern and asking for additional briefings from state and federal officials relative to those concerns.

Briefings will take place at the RAB meeting scheduled for Oct. 20 in Anchorage. Adak residents will be able to participate in the meeting via teleconference from the Commander's conference room in the high school building.

Stakeholder Involvement Sought on the Topic of Institutional Controls

The topic of institutional controls has been raised as an issue requiring additional community involvement and education. Currently, there are a number of institutional controls used on the island, such as signs and fencing for protection of human health. The subject will be addressed, with island residents, at future Adak meetings.

Do You Know...

A public health report is currently being developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regarding Adak. It is anticipated that the report will be released by mid-December. The following questions and responses provide background information on the agency developing the report.

Do you know what the ATSDR is?

ATSDR stands for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. This agency is a federal, public health agency located in Atlanta, Georgia. It is part of the Public Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services and was created by the Comprehensive Envi-

ronmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA).

Why is ATSDR involved in Adak?

ATSDR is required by Superfund (CERCLA) to participate at all sites that are on or proposed for the National Priorities List. Specifically, ATSDR is required to conduct public health assessments at these sites. Adak is a site on the National Priorities List.

In what capacity does ATSDR work on CERCLA sites?

ATSDR is an advisory, non-regulatory agency that evaluates data and information from both federal and state regulatory agencies in an effort to protect public health.

What types of activities does ATSDR influence in communities?

ATSDR's mission is to improve the quality of life at a National Priorities List site. ATSDR may comment on the risk assessments required by CERCLA to determine the risk associated with possible future exposure to hazardous substances. ATSDR may also consider a broad range of issues that affect public health but are beyond the scope of a CERCLA risk assessment. ATSDR advises the public through a variety of programs including public health assessments, health consultations, health studies, education programs, and medical monitoring programs. These advisories cover a much broader

scope than the risk assessments and remedial plans for which responsible parties bear liability under CERCLA.

Does the work that ATSDR does duplicate the work of EPA and ADEC?

The ATSDR's work complements the work of federal and state regulatory agencies in an advisory capacity. Again, ATSDR is a non-regulatory agency. ATSDR is not authorized to conduct large scale site or release related environmental testing, nor does it have authority to enforce regulations or provide medical treatment and health care services. Enforcement authority under CERCLA is with the state and federal agencies (EPA and ADEC).

Adak Update

**Engineering Field Activity, Northwest
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