



Alaska District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Date: August 19, 2016 Identification No. ER-16-10
Please refer to the identification number when replying.

Environmental Resources Section **Public Notice**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the following project:

Removal Action
Petroleum-Contaminated Soil
Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline (F10AK1016-13/12/-11)
Scottie Creek Scrapper Trap, Birch Lake Tank Storage, and Timber Pump Stations
Multiple Locations, Alaska
Formerly Used Defense Sites Program

The Corps prepared the attached EA to address, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the excavation of petroleum-contaminated soils and other ground-disturbing activities to be performed along the route of the former Haines-to-Fairbanks military fuel pipeline within Alaska. The Corps' proposed actions are authorized under the Department of Defense (DOD) Environmental Restoration Program – Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS), which provides the means to clean up waste materials, contaminated soil, and unsafe structures and debris from areas formerly used by the DOD.

The proposed project and potential environmental impacts are described in the enclosed EA and unsigned FONSI, which is available for public review and comment for 30 days from the date of this notice. It may also be viewed on the Alaska District's website at: www.poa.usace.army.mil. Click on the Reports and Studies button, look under Documents Available for Public Review, and then click on the Environmental Cleanup link.

The FONSI will be signed upon review of comments received and resolution of significant concerns. Please submit comments regarding the proposed action to Christopher.B.Floyd@usace.army.mil or to the address below.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
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P.O. Box 6898
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska 99506-0898

For information on the proposed project, please contact Chris Floyd of the Environmental Resources Section at (907) 753-2700, at the above email or Corps postal address.

Michael D. Noah
Chief, Environmental Resources Section



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Alaska District

Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

Removal Action
Petroleum-Contaminated Soil

**Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline (F10AK1016-13/12/-11)
Scottie Creek Scraper Trap, Birch Lake Tank Storage, and
Timber Pump Station
Multiple Locations, Alaska**

Formerly Used Defense Sites Program



Timber Pump Station, 2015

August 2016

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (Corps) has assessed the environmental effects of the following action:

**Removal Action
Petroleum-Contaminated Soil
(Scottie Creek Scrapper Trap, Birch Lake Tank Storage, Timber Pump Station)
Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) - F10AK1016-13/-12/-11
Multiple Locations, Alaska**

This action has been evaluated for its effects on several significant resources, including fish and wildlife, wetlands, threatened or endangered species, marine resources, and cultural resources. No significant short-term or long-term adverse effects were identified.

This Corps action complies with the National Historic Preservation Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Corps incorporates by reference the analyses performed for the issuance of Nationwide Permit No. 38, "Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste." The completed environmental assessment supports the conclusion that the action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human and natural environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not necessary for the proposed removal actions.

Michael S. Brooks
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

Date

Environmental Assessment

1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED OF REMEDIAL ACTION

1.1 Introduction

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) prepared this environmental assessment (EA) to address, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the excavation of petroleum-contaminated soils and other ground-disturbing activities to be performed along the route of the former Haines-to-Fairbanks military fuel pipeline within Alaska. The Corps' proposed actions are authorized under the Department of Defense (DOD) Environmental Restoration Program – Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS), which provides the means to clean up waste materials, contaminated soil, and unsafe structures and debris from areas formerly used by the DOD. Most FUDS projects follow Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) processes, which would not include preparation of an EA under NEPA. However, the proposed project involves the excavation and removal of soils contaminated only with petroleum, which falls outside the purview of CERCLA.

1.2 Site Description and History

The Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline extends 626 miles from Haines, Alaska, through the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory, through Tok, Alaska, and on to Fairbanks, Alaska. The pipeline route generally parallels the Haines Highway from Haines, Alaska, to Haines Junction, Yukon Territory, follows the Alaska and Richardson Highways to Delta Junction, Alaska, and continues along the Richardson Highway to Fort Wainwright, Alaska (FES 2012; CEMML 2003).

The U.S. military constructed the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline in 1953 and 1954 to transport fuels from the protected ice-free port at Haines in Southeast Alaska to the military installations in Interior Alaska. Much of the 8-inch-diameter pipeline was laid on the ground surface, although approximately 96 miles of the pipeline near Delta Junction, Alaska, and most of the 42 miles of Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline between the Haines Fuel Terminal and the Canadian border were buried. Other portions of the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline were also buried; however, these intervals were small and intermittent (FES 2012; CEMML 2003).

Originally, the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline was constructed with five pump stations; they were located at Haines and Tok, Alaska, and Border, Haines-Junction, and Donjek in Yukon Territory, Canada. Bulk fuel storage facilities were also constructed at Haines and Tok, Alaska. Six new pump stations were added to the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline in 1962 in response to increased military fuel demands. The new pump stations were located at Blanchard River, Destruction Bay, and Beaver Creek in Yukon Territory, Canada, and at Lakeview, Sears Creek, and Timber, Alaska (FES 2012; CEMML 2003).

The Haines-to-Tok section of the pipeline was shut down in July 1971. In 1973, the Tok-to-Eielson section of the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline was deactivated. The bulk fuel storage facilities in Haines and Tok, Alaska, continued to operate until 1979, when the U.S. Army closed the Tok fuel storage facility. The Tok-to-Fairbanks section of the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline was briefly reactivated to pump the remaining fuel from the station. All of the fuel was removed from the Tok terminal in July 1979, and the pipeline was shut down. The Eielson-to-Fairbanks portion of the pipeline was deactivated in the early 1990s. Most of the unused pipeline has been removed or salvaged by nonmilitary entities (FES 2012; CEMML 2003).

The Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline was plagued with leaks from corrosion, ice damage, and vandalism (e.g., bullet holes) throughout its operational history. Underground portions of the pipeline experienced damage from broken welds and at least one accidental breach from borehole drilling. Releases of fuel from the pipeline also occurred during maintenance or operational mishaps at gate valves, scraper traps, and other control structures along the pipeline (FES 2012).

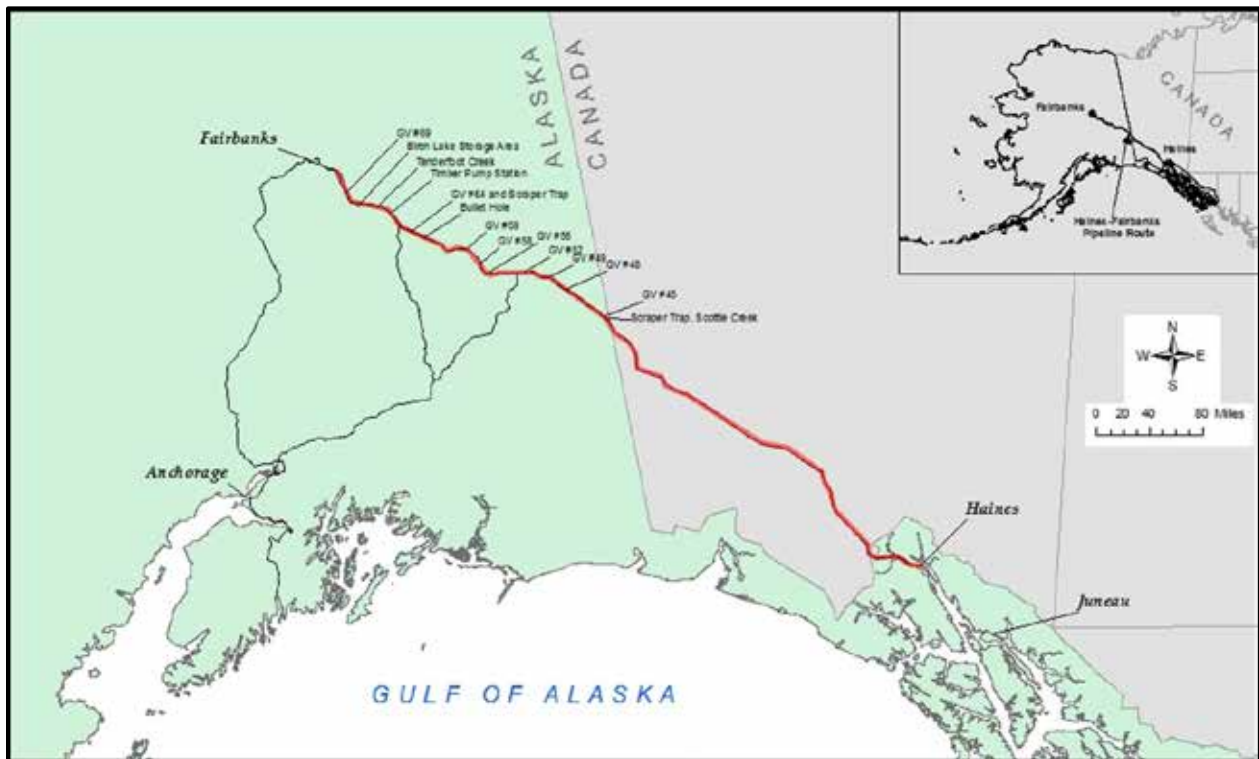


Figure 1. Overall route of the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline.

1.3 Need for Action

The Corps has investigated 43 reported and potential release sites along U.S. portions of the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline and assessed contaminant concentrations at many of these locations. The Corps has received authorization for closure (i.e., no further action required) at 27 of these

sites from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). Three sites with known contamination require further investigation before a remedial action can be planned, and at one site, the landowner has not granted the Corps a right-of-entry to perform investigations or cleanup work. The Corps has identified three sites at which remedial action is required and for which adequate data currently exists to proceed with a remedial action: Scottie Creek Scraper Trap, Birch Lake Tank Storage, and Timber Pump Station.

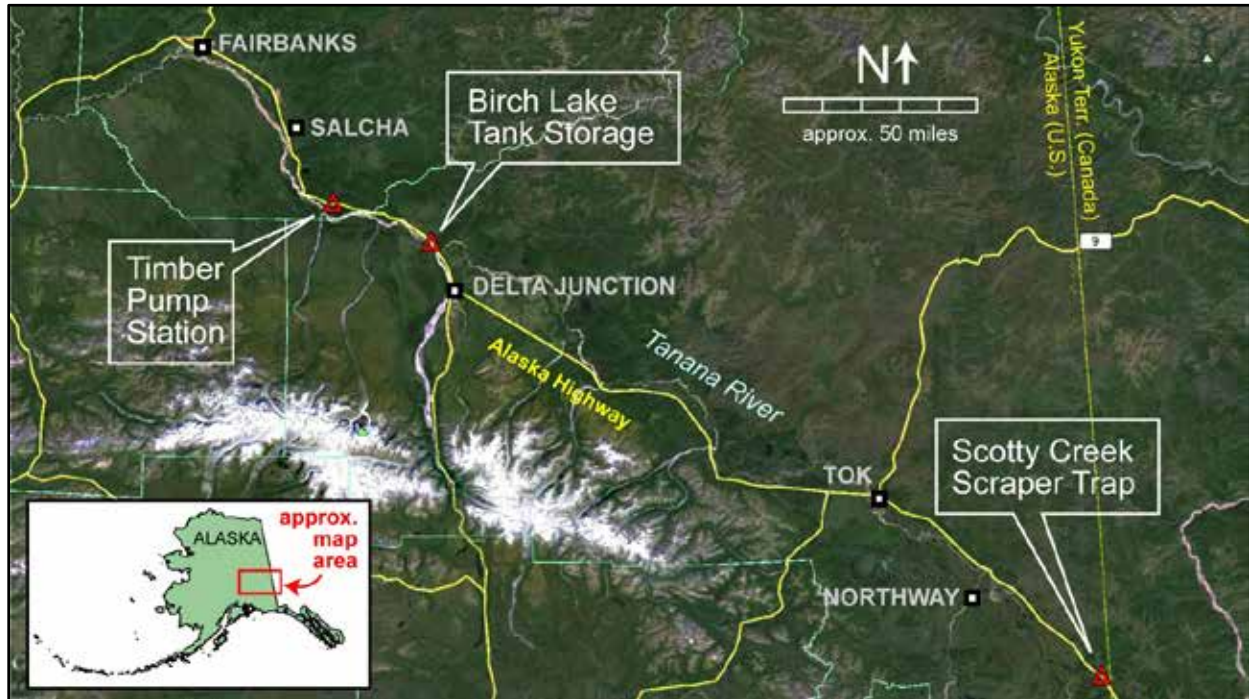


Figure 2. Locations of the Scottie Creek Scraper Trap, Birch Lake Tank Storage, and Timber Pump Station along the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline.

Scottie Creek Scraper Trap. A scraper trap was located at Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline Milepost (PMP) 343.9, Alaska Highway Milepost (AHMP) 1226 near Scottie Creek and the Alaska/Canada Border. Significant quantities of fuel were reportedly released to the ground at this site during pipeline pigging operations. The trap was located on the north side of the Alaska Highway, just west of the Scottie Creek Lodge entrance. The pipeline and trap assembly have been removed from the site; only the concrete slab foundations for the trap assembly remain in place (figure 3). The approximate location of the concrete slab foundations is 62.67°N, 141.06°W.



Figure 3. Scottie Creek Scrapper Trap: A portion of one of the remaining concrete slabs (July 2016).

Birch Lake Tank Storage. The Birch Lake Tank Storage Area was located at PMP 569, Richardson Highway Milepost (RHMP) 305. The facility consisted of two 277,000-gallon fuel tanks and a truck-loading rack with a 3-inch line to each tank. The tanks and all associated piping and structures have been removed (figure 4). The approximate location of the former fuel tanks is 64.32°N, 146.64°W.



Figure 4. Birch Lake Tank Storage: Former locations of the south tank (left) and north tank (right) (2007).

Timber Pump Station. Timber Pump Station is located at PMP 544, RHMP 278; the former pump station is situated within a partially fenced-off area that includes the main composite building and a shop building (cover photograph). Two aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) with 59,000 (figure 5) and 21,000-gallon capacities and associated fuel transfer stations are present at the site. A fuel stand, diesel pump transfer station, underground storage tanks (USTs), a cyclonic fuel separator with assorted valves and piping, a feature resembling a dry well, and a burn pit are also still present at the site. The location of the main composite building is 64.19°N, 145.89°W.



Figure 5. Timber Pump Station: Partial view of the 59,000-gallon AST with pipes and valves (May 2016).

2.0 ALTERNATIVES

2.1 No-Action Alternative

The no-action alternative would avoid the short-term disruptions to the local environment that would be caused by the operation of heavy equipment and excavation of soil. However, under the no-action alternative, the contaminated soil would remain in place. This would potentially allow the migration of chemical contaminants to nearby wetlands and subsistence areas and limit the use of the area by the community.

2.2 Removal Action Alternative

Excavation of contaminated soil and removal of contaminant sources is the only action alternative presented in this EA. The Corps' extensive experience with environmental cleanup projects in Alaska has shown that *in situ* remediation or natural attenuation strategies tend not to be practicable or economically feasible at small, remote contaminated sites due to cold temperatures and the high costs of maintenance and monitoring. In such situations, direct removal and treatment of contaminated soil is generally the fastest, surest, and most economical means of eliminating or reducing environmental contamination.

2.3 Preferred Alternative

The action alternative of excavation and removal of the contaminated soil is the preferred alternative.

Scottie Creek Scraper Trap Contaminated Soil Excavation and Disposal

This task includes excavating, transporting, and disposing of up to 1,200 tons of petroleum-impacted soil from the Scottie Creek site. Contaminated soil in excess of ADEC soil cleanup levels has been confirmed in the vicinity of the two concrete pads still present at the site. Contaminated soil requiring excavation/disposal has been confirmed up to 9 feet below ground service (bgs) and likely extends beyond that depth.

Birch Lake Tank Storage Contaminated Soil Excavation and Disposal

This task includes excavating, transporting, and disposing of up to 3,000 tons of petroleum-impacted soil from the Birch Lake site. Contaminated soil in excess of ADEC soil cleanup levels has been confirmed in the vicinity of the Tank 1 footprint. Any tank piping and other appurtenances, trash, or debris found at the site will be removed, assessed for contaminants, and disposed of properly.

Timber Pump Station Contaminant Source Removal

The field work at this site consists primarily of removing sources of contamination, such as tanks, piping, and batteries by doing the following:

- Decommission and dispose of a septic tank, dry well, leaching wells, and associated piping. The nature and extent of contents within the septic system are unknown and will require adequate characterization for disposal. A total volume of 5,000 gallons of contents has been assumed.
- Remove and properly dispose of a 1,200-gallon aboveground diesel fuel day tank, two 540-gallon underground fuel storage tanks, two aboveground bulk fuel storage tanks (estimated at 21,000 and 59,000-gallon capacities), and associated ancillary equipment. Lead-based paint has been confirmed on the aboveground tanks at the site.

- Remove and properly dispose of an estimated 3,100 feet of buried and aboveground piping and appurtenances associated with the fuel storage and distribution systems at the site. Some piping may have asbestos-containing materials in the form of valve gaskets and similar accessories.
- Ensure that residual petroleum liquids and solids are properly removed from all tanks, sumps, drain pits, and piping, and are containerized and disposed of properly.
- Excavate, transport, and properly dispose of approximately 1,700 tons of petroleum-contaminated soil.
- Locate and properly dispose of four large lead-acid batteries reported at the site.

2.4 Construction Considerations and Minimization of Environmental Impacts

At each site, an excavator or similar equipment would be used to remove contaminated soil from the ground and place it in an adjacent stockpile. The stockpile would have a 10-mil liner and be located at least 100 feet from bodies of surface water. The stockpiled soil would be covered with a 6-mil liner in such a way as to prevent infiltration of precipitation and water runoff. Saturated soils would be allowed to drain, and the liquid would be captured and combined with decontamination water for later processing.

Excavation of the contaminated soil would continue at each site until confirmation samples collected from the floors and sidewalls of the excavation showed that no remaining soil contained contaminant concentrations exceeding State of Alaska cleanup levels. The excavated soil would be loaded into covered trucks and transported to a soil treatment facility (e.g., the OIT facility in North Pole, Alaska). The excavations would be backfilled with clean material from an approved borrow source; the backfill material would not contain muck, frozen material, roots, or sod, and would be tested before use to determine that it was not contaminated.

Vegetated areas that are disturbed due to the contaminated soil removal activities would be seeded in accordance with the Revegetation Manual for Alaska (Wright 2008).

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Community and People

The Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline runs through or near several relatively small Interior Alaska communities, including Northway, Tok, Tanacross, Tetlin, Dot Lake, Delta Junction, and Salcha. Northway, Tetlin, and Tanacross are predominantly Alaska Native communities and rely heavily

on subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering.

3.2 Current Land Use

All three project sites are located on land currently owned by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

3.3 Climate

The sites are located in Interior Alaska's continental climate zone. In winter, ice fog and smoke conditions are common. The average low temperature in the area in January is -32 °F, and the average high in July is 72 °F. Extreme temperatures have been recorded from -71°F in winter to 99 °F in summer. Average annual precipitation is 11 inches, with 33 inches of snow (ADCRA 2016).

3.4 Topography, Soils, and Hydrology

Much of the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline route in Interior Alaska follows the Tanana River Valley, a broad swath of relatively low land stretching from the Tanana River headwaters at the confluence of the Nabesna and Chisana Rivers near Northway, Alaska, northwest to the Yukon River. This region is characterized by extensive wetlands, numerous streams, and water bodies ranging from tiny ponds to large lakes, and gently rolling hills in more upland areas. Soils are predominantly alluvial deposits of sand and rounded gravel, overlain by a thin layer of silt and fine sand, with peat in some areas.

3.5 Air Quality and Noise

Little information exists on air quality along the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline route, although it is assumed to be generally good due to the relatively low number and density of air pollutant sources along the sparsely populated highway and pipeline corridor. The most likely type of air pollutant to be present would be particulates from dust lofted by off-road vehicles, wildfires, and wood burned for heating. Particulate concentrations from wood smoke may become notably elevated within valleys and other low-elevation areas during the winter.

The major source of noise along the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline route is probably from vehicles using the nearby Alaska or Richardson Highways. All-terrain vehicles, snow-machines, light aircraft, and generators would also contribute to noise levels locally.

3.6 Biological Resources

Upland vegetation is boreal forest consisting primarily of black spruce in wet and poorly drained areas and white spruce on drier sites. Quaking aspen commonly occurs on well-drained, south-facing slopes, and along with paper birch, often occurs in recently burned or disturbed areas. Balsam poplar is common along water courses. As elevation increases, dense spruce gives way to open spruce woodlands mixed with tall shrubs, then dwarf-shrub communities, and finally

alpine tundra. Shrubs are most common along streams and water bodies, within recently burned areas, and along gullies that drain subalpine tundra. The shrub component is primarily willow, alder, and dwarf birch (USFWS 2011).

Large mammals include herbivores such as moose and caribou, and carnivores such as wolves, coyotes, black bears, brown bears, and lynx. Porcupines, beavers, muskrats, hares, and voles are also common (USFWS 2011).

The upper Tanana River Valley is on a major bird migration corridor and has a high diversity of species compared with other Interior Alaska regions. Ducks, geese, swans, and other water birds make heavy use of the rivers, lakes, and wetlands. Bald and golden eagles, ospreys, hawks, and owls are known to breed in the area. Ground birds include spruce grouse, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, and willow ptarmigan. The most common migratory songbirds are slate-colored junco, Swainson's thrush, Wilson's warbler, ruby-crowned kinglet, yellow-rumped warbler, and orange-crowned warbler. Year-round residents include ravens, gray jays, black-billed magpies, black-capped chickadees, boreal chickadees, and redpolls (USFWS 2011).

Arctic grayling, burbot, lake trout, northern pike, and humpback whitefish are present in area lakes and streams. There are no significant salmon runs in the upper Tanana River drainage, but small runs of chum salmon and an occasional king and coho have been recorded (USFWS 2011).

3.7 Wetlands

The project sites have not been individually evaluated for the presence of jurisdictional wetlands. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory website shows the Tanana River Valley to be a complex mosaic of freshwater emergent and forested wetlands, uplands, and riverine habitat (USFWS 2016a). The three sites being remediated were relatively large facilities presumed to have been constructed on pads of gravel or other fill, or on upland soils. Wetlands are not expected at the project sites, but it is possible that small areas of wetlands may exist on the periphery of the project sites, and may be affected by the project activities.

3.8 Threatened and Endangered Species

No species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act are present in Interior Alaska. This area is within the historical range of the wood bison (listed as "threatened"), but until very recently, no wild populations of wood bison existed in Interior Alaska. An experimental herd of 150 wood bison was released in 2015, but in the Innoko Flats region about 350 miles to the west of the Tanana River Valley (ADN 2015).

3.9 Essential Fish Habitat and Anadromous Streams

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game's (ADFG) Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC) lists numerous anadromous streams flowing into the upper Tanana River Valley, including the Nabesna, Chisana, Tok, Johnson, and Delta Rivers, and the Tanana River itself. The Tanana

River is assigned the AWC number 334-40-11000-2490; along the reach closest to a proposed project site, ADFG reports this river to have chum, coho, and king salmon “present” at Tanana (ADFG 2016).

No marine essential fish habitat (EFH) as designated by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) exists near any of the project sites.

3.10 Cultural and Historic Resources

Scottie Creek Scraper Trap. Examination of the Alaska Historic Resources Survey (AHRS) database by a Corps archaeologist showed three cultural properties within the project area of potential effect (APE): Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline, CANOL Pipeline, and the Scottie Creek Scraper Trap itself. The Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline and the scraper trap have been removed from the area; only the concrete slab foundations for the trap assembly remain in place. In addition, two archaeological sites have been reported within several hundred feet of the scraper trap site (Pierce 2016a). Because of the proximity of the two archaeological sites, and the possibility of encountering archaeological materials during project excavation, the Corps conducted an archaeological site investigation of the Scottie Creek project site in July 2016. The Corps’ investigation report is pending, but preliminary results indicated no evidence of archaeological materials within the APE.

Birch Lake Tank Storage. Examination of the AHRS database revealed that there are no historic properties within the proposed project APE. The fuel tanks, truck-loading rack, and associated piping have been removed from the area. As part of the 2007 environmental investigation, surrounding soils were removed and replaced in order to determine the horizontal and vertical extent of the contamination. The tank berms are no longer clearly evident due to these actions. A Corps archaeologist examined the entire area and monitored the 2007 test pit sampling at the former tank footprints and determined that the area was previously disturbed by heavy equipment. No cultural resources were observed during sampling (Pierce 2016b).

No prehistoric sites have been identified within the 2016 Birch Lake Tank Storage APE. The area surrounding the former tank sites is disturbed by demolition and remedial activities (Pierce 2016b).

Timber Pump Station. Examination of the AHRS database indicated that one historic site (Timber Pump Station) is located within the project APE, and two historic sites (Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline and CANOL Pipeline) are adjacent to the project APE. No prehistoric sites are reported within the project area (Pierce 2016c). The tanks, piping, and other physical components to be removed under the proposed action are part of the Timber Pump Station historic property.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF ALTERNATIVES

4.1 No-Action Alternative

The no-action alternative would avoid the short-term disruptions to the local environment that would be caused by the operation of heavy equipment and excavation of soil. However, the contaminated soil would remain in place, which would limit the use of the area by the community and potentially allow the migration of chemical contaminants to groundwater.

4.2 Preferred Alternative

Under the preferred alternative, contaminated soils would be excavated from the site to the extent practical, and the excavation would be backfilled with clean material. The potential environmental consequences are described below.

4.3 Land Use and Ownership

The planned removal actions may for a brief time (i.e., several days to a week) limit the use of the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline corridor immediately adjacent to a given project site, as an area around the excavation and stockpile would need to be cordoned off for public safety. This would primarily affect the movement of all-terrain vehicles. Where practicable, the field crew would leave a path around the work area sufficiently wide to allow the passage of local traffic. Work near the Alaska Highway would be coordinated with the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities to ensure public and worker safety. The proposed work would take place only on properties with which the Corps has a signed Right-of-Entry with the landowner; the project would have no impact on land ownership.

4.4 Effects on Air Quality and Noise

Air quality may be affected during the project period due to the use of heavy equipment, vehicles, and generators. The Corps determines that any poor air quality conditions caused by the project would be transient and highly localized, and would dissipate entirely at the end of the project.

The planned activities at the site and the movement of trucks and equipment into and out of the project along local roads would increase the levels of noise in the local area during several weeks of the working season. The remedial activities would be timed to minimize the level of interference with the lives of the local residents and recreational users.

4.5 Effects on Topography, Soils, and Hydrology

The small areas of excavation would not significantly alter the topography or patterns of overland water flow in the area. The backfilled excavations would be contoured to match the original grade to the extent practical.

4.6 Effects on Biological Resources

The planned activities would be highly localized in their impacts and affect areas already heavily altered by the former military facilities, past cleanup efforts, and current day usage. A small amount of brush may need to be cleared to access specific features. The activities would have little effect on local wildlife and no long-term negative impact on their habitat. The project site is surrounded by large areas of similar, higher-quality habitat, and any wildlife displaced from the project area by noise and activity should be able to quickly resume their natural behavior.

Nesting birds are likely to be the most vulnerable animal species at the site. The destruction of active nests, eggs, or nestlings is a violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service advises that the period 1 May through 15 July should be considered the nesting window for forest- or shrub-nesting birds in Interior Alaska (USFWS 2009). The project activities may overlap this nesting window. One means of avoiding a “taking” of nesting birds under the MBTA would be to perform the necessary brush and tree removal before the start of the nesting window. The Corps will require its contractors to observe this window to the extent practicable.

4.7 Effects on Wetlands

The project areas have not been delineated for jurisdictional wetlands, and are not expected to contain wetlands, but it is possible that unevaluated wetlands may be present. Much of the area to be excavated to remove contaminated soils consists of fill placed during construction of the facilities, which would not be wetlands. The intent of the contaminated soil removal action is to continue excavating soil until clean limits (as determined by field screening and confirmation sampling) are reached; therefore, the extent of wetlands that may be affected by project activities is not known in advance.

Where backfill is placed in excavations that have extended into wetlands, that fill would constitute a discharge under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The Corps, which is the enforcement authority for Section 404, does not issue itself CWA permits for its activities. However, the Corps incorporates by reference (in accordance with 40 CFR 1502.21) the analyses under NEPA and CWA Section 404(b)(1) performed for the issuance of Nationwide Permit No. 38, “Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste”: “Specific activities required to effect the containment, stabilization, or removal of hazardous or toxic waste materials that are performed, ordered, or sponsored by a government agency with established legal or regulatory authority.” The State of Alaska certified the full list of Nationwide Permits (NWP) issued by the Corps in 2012, so no separate Section 401 Certificate of Reasonable Assurance is required for these FUDS removal actions, which fall within the scope and intent of NWP No. 38. The Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) required under General Condition 31 to this NWP does not apply to this project, as the Corps is adopting the analysis behind the NWP and not the permit itself.

The removal of chemical contaminants from the project site is a remedial action in its own right that benefits the overall environment, and the Corps does not intend to mitigate for or attempt to restore the small, discontinuous areas of wetlands that may be lost in the course of the project excavation and backfilling activities.

4.7 Effects on Endangered and Threatened Species

The Corps determines that the planned activities would have no adverse effect on any species listed under the Endangered Species Act or their critical habitat, as none exists in the project area.

4.8 Effects on Essential Fish Habitat and Anadromous Streams

The project would not require crossing or altering any anadromous streams and so will not have an effect on essential fish habitat. The Corps' contractors will minimize the risk of mobilizing sediment from the project site using appropriate best management practices.

4.9 Effects on Cultural Resources

Scottie Creek Scrapper Trap. In a letter dated 9 March 2016, the Corps recommended that the Scottie Creek Scrapper Trap not be considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and proposed the archaeological investigation that was performed in July 2016 (Pierce 2016a). The Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) responded in a letter dated 19 April 2016 (SHPO 2016a), concurring that the Scottie Scrapper Trap is not eligible and no longer contributes to the eligibility of the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline historic property; therefore, the concrete pads at the Scottie Creek site can be removed without an adverse effect on historic properties.

Birch Lake Tank Storage. In a letter dated 17 February 2016 (Pierce 2016b), the Corps determined that no historic properties will be affected in the removal of contaminated soil at Birch Lake and that there is a low probability of discovering intact archaeological resources within the project. The SHPO responded with a stamped concurrence dated 4 April 2016. (SHPO 2016b).

Timber Pump Station. The Corps proposed a finding that the Timber Pump Station is eligible for the NRHP, and that the planned removal of tanks, piping, and other components will have an adverse effect on that historic property, in a report and letter to the State Historic Preservation Officer dated 23 June 2016 (Pierce 2016c). The SHPO concurred with both of these findings in a letter dated 18 July 2016 (SHPO 2016c). The Corps will continue its consultation with the SHPO and other interested parties to seek ways to mitigate the adverse effect (Pierce 2016c).

4.10 Effects on Coastal Zone Management

The project sites are not within current or former coastal management zone. Alaska withdrew

from the voluntary National Coastal Zone Management Program (<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/programs/czm.html>) on July 1, 2011. Within the State of Alaska, the Federal consistency requirements under the Coastal Zone Management Act do not apply to Federal agencies, those seeking forms of Federal authorization, and state and local government entities applying for Federal assistance.

4.11 Effects on Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,” requires Federal agencies to identify and address any disproportionately high and adverse human health effects of its programs and activities on minority and low-income populations.

The express purpose of the proposed project is to reduce risks to human health and welfare in the region by removing contaminants from the environment. The Corps does not anticipate adverse impacts from this project to the local human population.

4.12 Cumulative Effects

Federal law (40 CFR 651.16) requires that NEPA documents assess cumulative effects, which are the impact on the environment resulting from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

The proposed project would have the ultimate net effect of removing chemical contamination from the environment. The immediate incremental impacts of air pollutants and noise from construction machinery would be of short duration and would not contribute to long-term cumulative effects. Because of the small size of the project areas, the proposed project is unlikely to indirectly contribute to long-term changes in land use and environmental quality by encouraging use of the restored land.

5.0 Permits and Authorizations

The project described in this EA would require few resource permits or authorizations. The Corps will continue consultation with the SHPO and other interested parties on mitigation for adverse effects to the Timber Pump Station site. Backfilling of the excavation at one or more of the sites has the potential to constitute a discharge to wetlands; however, the Corps does not issue itself CWA permits for its activities. The Corps incorporates by reference the analyses under NEPA and CWA Section 404(b)(1) performed for the issuance of Nationwide Permit No. 38, “Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste”; no further authorization under the CWA is required.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The continued environmental cleanup efforts along the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline, as discussed in this document, would have some minor, largely controllable short-term impacts, but in the long term, would help improve the overall quality of the human environment. This assessment supports the conclusion that the proposed project does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment; therefore, a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) will be signed by the Corps.

7.0 PREPARERS OF THIS DOCUMENT

This environmental assessment was prepared by Chris Floyd and Diane Walters of the Environmental Resources Section, with contributions from project manager Beth Astley of the Environmental and Special Programs Branch, Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

8.0 REFERENCES

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