



# FACT SHEET

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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November 2019

**SUBJECT:** Update on USACE Clean-Up Activities on the North Slope

**FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)**

**PROJECT STATUS:**

## Umiat Landfill

USACE has conducted **annual site inspections** since 2011 to visually inspect the landfill for signs of recently exposed potential hazardous waste sources such as transformers or batteries. **Fieldwork** completed in June and August 2019 included the annual landfill site inspection and a supplemental site visit to Test Well No. 7 and the landfill. The site conditions were unchanged from the previous year.

A **Proposed Plan** was released for public comment between 12 February and 23 April 2018 and included public meetings in Nuiqsut and Utqiagvik, AK. The Umiat Restoration Advisory Board meets regularly in Nuiqsut. Native people have expressed concerns about the effects of contaminants from the landfill on subsistence resources, especially fish, in the Colville River. USACE prepared a **Decision Document (DD)** for the selected remedy. The final remedy involves removal of the landfill contents from the Colville River floodplain, with inert debris being placed into a monofill, offsite disposal of hazardous substances, and onsite treatment of contaminated soils. One significant change was made to the preferred alternative, based on comments received. Contaminated soils will not be placed in the monofill. Only inert debris will be placed in the monofill. Excavated soil that is contaminated will be treated onsite to acceptable levels, if feasible, using methods such as thermal treatment, landfarming, or stabilization. Treated soil that meets cleanup levels may be used at the monofill, for road maintenance, or at the handling pad. If onsite treatment is not feasible, contaminated soil will be transported offsite for disposal.

The DD includes a Responsiveness Summary addressing the public comments. Due to the high remedy cost (approximately \$160 million), approval by Pacific Ocean Division (POD) and USACE Headquarters was required. The DD has been coordinated with the lead state regulator, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). Headquarters approval of the DD was received on 27 September 2019.

The project is now funded for the **design phase** to support the planning and subsequent implementation of the remedy. As a result of funding constraints, project magnitude and seasonal limitations, remediation work will require multiple years to complete. The District will

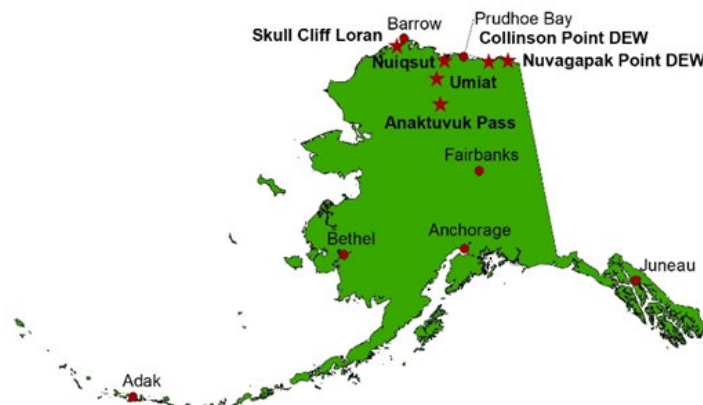


Photo 1. Aerial view of Umiat Landfill vicinity (2018)



Photo 2. Exposed Debris at Landfill (2018)



Photo 3. Exposed debris at Landfill (2019)

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – ALASKA DISTRICT**

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continue annual visual inspections of the landfill for signs of exposed potential hazardous waste sources.

### Umiat Test Well #3

The Alaska District recommended **no further action** and project closure for Test Well #3 in 2019, which was supported by the ADEC.

### Umiat Test Wells #2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, and 11

Test Wells 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, and 11 are scheduled for the implementation of **land use controls**. Land use controls will consist of notation on Federal Master Title Plats to prevent digging in or near residual petroleum contaminated soil which could result in new releases or new pathways of transport to the environment, and to ensure ADEC is notified in accordance with state regulations.

### Umiat Test Well #7

Test Well #7 was delineated into a separate project based on identified lead contamination in site soils. The next step is completion of a Feasibility Study (FS) to evaluate remedial alternatives to address site impacts. The FS is currently under development.

### Umiat Test Well #9 Drainage Basin

The Final Remedial Investigation report summarizes the data collected in 2015 – 2016. PCB contamination identified in Drainage Basin soil and sediment was limited to the drainage channels and seven isolated grid locations. Fieldwork completed in August 2017 included a debris cleanup in the drainage area and removal of plastic bags from the dugout basins. The 2018 Final Revised Remedial Investigation and **Risk Assessment** concluded the site does not pose a human health risk and ecological risk, while present, does not pose an unacceptable risk to receptors at the population level. No further evaluation of ecological risk is recommended. USACE has prepared a **No Further Action Proposed Plan**, which is available for public review and comment. The public comment period ends 15 December 2019. A **Decision Document** will be prepared after receiving public comments on the Proposed Plan.

### Umiat Drum Mound

Previous site work (2016) included removal of: 35 drums at or near the Drum Mound, 1.36 tons of POL contaminated soil, 85 gallons of POL contaminated water, and 1.66 tons of empty drums and scrap metal. In 2017, sampling was conducted of residual POL contaminated soils at the excavation and scattered drum area. The 2017 sampling delineated the contamination and demonstrated the residual petroleum is below ADEC arctic zone cleanup levels. USACE recommended **project closeout** in 2019, which was subsequently agreed to by the ADEC.



Photo 4. Test Well #3 area (2018)

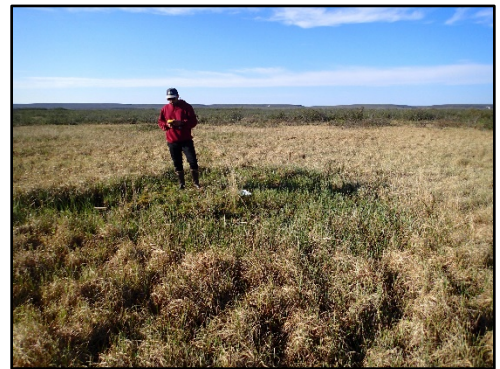


Photo 5. View of Test Well 7 (2018)

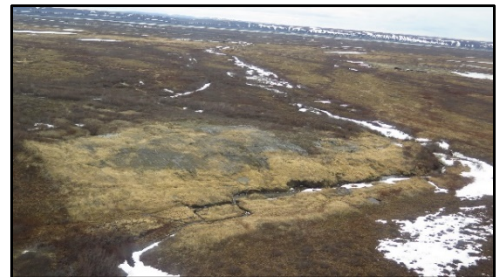


Photo 6. Aerial view of Test Well 9 Drainage (2018)



Photo 7. Umiat Drum Mound (2009)



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### **Umiat Lake**

USACE conducted a geophysical survey of the entire Umiat Lake in winter 2009, and a removal action based on the geophysical results in summer 2009. Approximately 9 tons of drums and drum carcasses were removed from the shoreline or submerged within Umiat Lake in 2009. About 1 ton of contaminated sediments associated with the drums/debris locations was also removed. USACE recommended **No Further Action** and declared **project closeout** in September 2015. State regulatory concurrence with site closeout is still pending.

### **Umiat Main Pad and Airfield**

Several cleanup efforts have occurred at the main gravel pads at Umiat. Those actions were interim removal actions. Follow-up work to close these sites has not been determined. Future funding is planned after other, higher priority projects are completed.

### **Collinson Point DEW**

Previous work at the site included: (1994) Removal of hazardous debris and petroleum, oil, and lubricants (POL) contaminated soil; (2000) Demolition and removal of buildings and surface facilities, POL pipeline, and contaminated soil; (2004) Site visit and soil sampling; (2007) a Phase I Remedial Investigation; and, (2008) Phase II Remedial Investigation leading to a Decision Document (2013). Remedial action included the removal and disposal of 121 tons of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated soils, and landfarming of 926 tons of POL contaminated soils, on-site (2016). All landfarm cells were closed after achieving the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) 18 AAC 75 Method Two cleanup levels. In 2017, Fieldwork included removal of remaining PCB contaminated soil and concrete and full demobilization from the site. A project closeout report was prepared in 2019 and has been coordinated with ADEC. Project closeout is scheduled for 2020.

### **Nuvagapak Point DEW**

Previous work at the site included: (1994) Removal of POL drums and POL contaminated soil; (2000) Demolition and removal of buildings and surface facilities including asbestos containing materials and POL contaminated soil; (2003) Site visit and soil sampling; (2007) Phase I Remedial Investigation; and, (2008) Phase II Remedial Investigation leading to a Decision Document (2013). Remedial action (2016) included the removal and disposal of PCB contaminated soils, and landfarming of POL contaminated soils for one year on site. Remaining fieldwork, conducted in 2017, included removal of all PCB contaminated soil and full demobilization. A project closeout report was prepared in 2019 and has achieved state regulatory concurrence.

**NATIVE AMERICAN LANDS ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM (NALEMP) PROJECT STATUS:****Native Village of Barrow**

An FY19 Cooperative Agreement (CA) was awarded to Native Village of Barrow on May 1, 2019. The scope of work is to remove 72 tons of debris at Skull Cliff comprised of 55-gal drums, concrete anchors/slabs, pipes and cables. NVB started the debris removal work summer 2019 and will complete it summer 2020. NVB will also update their 2018 Strategic Project Implementation Plan (SPIP).

**Native Village of Nuiqsut**

An FY19 Cooperative Agreement (CA) was awarded to Native Village of Nuiqsut on July 24, 2019. The scope of work is to prepare a Strategic Project Implementation Plan (SPIP). The site the Tribe is particularly concerned about is the **Anaktuvuk River Drum Cache**, where over 200 drums, some containing fluid, were observed near the confluence of the Anaktuvuk and the Colville Rivers. Other sites of concern are **Oliktok Point Radar Station**, **Fish Creek Test Well 1 Site**, and the **Gubik Drill Site Landfill**. The Tribe intends to mitigate these impacts in future CAs.

**Village of Anaktuvuk Pass**

An FY19 Cooperative Agreement (CA) was awarded to the Village of Anaktuvuk Pass on July 26, 2019. The scope of work is to remove and dispose approximately 2,500 pounds of drums and debris at Shainin Lake. The Tribe will also update their 2012 SPIP.

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