

AMAKNAK FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE

FEBRUARY 2020 ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE



CALENDAR

PUBLIC MEETING

February 19, 2020
6-8 PM

The Grand Aleutian Hotel
Makushin Room, Floor 2
498 Salmon Way
Unalaska, AK 99692

Teleconference Line:
1-800-523-8437
ID# 123 627 8446

OPEN HOUSE Q&A

February 19, 2020
1-4 PM

Unalaska Public Library
64 Eleanor Drive
Unalaska, AK 99685

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (USACE) is distributing this update to provide interested parties with a brief overview of the ongoing environmental cleanup and remediation efforts being conducted under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) for the Amaknak Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS).

This newsletter presents updates on restoration activities completed or planned at various projects within the Amaknak FUDS property, as well as opportunities for the public to get involved. It has been prepared as part of the recommendations of the Public Involvement Plan for the Amaknak FUDS property, which encourages public involvement in the remediation planning process.



Photo 1. 2014 Pipeline 214 Removal

FUDS PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The Department of Defense (DoD) is responsible for environmental restoration (cleanup) of properties that were formerly owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the United States and under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense—i.e. the Army, Navy, Air Force, or any other DoD agency. Such properties are known as FUDS. The USACE is responsible for the FUDS program on behalf of the DoD. USACE employs a risk management approach in accomplishing the cleanups and is committed to addressing this contamination in a safe, timely, and responsive manner. Cleanup is a multi-step process that engages many community, tribal, state, and federal partners in identification, investigation, cleanup, and in some cases, long-term management.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

DoD use began with Navy acquisition of land for a radio station (1912) and other naval facilities in the 1930s. On January 6, 1912, Executive Order No. 1456 authorized the U.S. Navy to obtain 76.46 acres of land located within the Rocky Point Tank Farm for the operation of the Dutch Harbor Naval Radio Station. During World War II (WWII), the U.S. military constructed and maintained numerous facilities on the islands of Amaknak and Unalaska. Dutch Harbor endured an attack by the Japanese in 1942, and during peak military activities nearly 65,000 personnel were stationed at 11 facilities encompassing nearly 190,000 acres in the Unalaska area. After the Japanese attack, the Fort Mears dispersal by the Army created a great deal of new construction leading into Iliuliuk Valley including the construction of 268 cabanas for enlisted housing, 28 cabanas for officer housing, and over 500 Quonset huts for housing and administration. The Mt. Ballyhoo Army Garrison, which later became Fort Schwatka, was constructed on Ulakta Head in the summer of 1942.

The Army began expanding to Pyramid and Iliuliuk Valleys in the fall of 1942. Fort Brumback was a tactical artillery area in the Summer Bay area that contained four large gun mounts, a bunker, an executive station, power generation facilities, a mess hall, and utility systems. By 1947, the military completed its withdrawal from the posts, but most facilities were left intact. The Amaknak FUDS includes the Naval Reservation (e.g., Naval Operating Base), Fort Brumback, Fort Schwatka, and Fort Mears.

PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

The USACE began cleanup in Unalaska in 1984, completing building demolition and debris removal in 1985-1986, and completing fuel storage tank removals associated with the abandoned Aqua-fuel system in 1990-1991. Inventory Project Reports were approved for chemical contamination investigation and remediation work in 1993 and for containerized hazardous waste in 1994. Extensive investigative and remedial activities have been performed including the cleanup of approximately 52,000 cubic yards (cy) of contaminated soil, over 200 fuel storage tanks, over 10,000 feet of pipeline, and transformer vaults; unexploded ordnance (UXO) and chemical warfare materials (CWM) training; and landfill permit, cap, and closure.

PREVIOUS REMOVAL ACTIVITIES



52,000
cubic yards of
contaminated soil



200+
fuel storage tanks

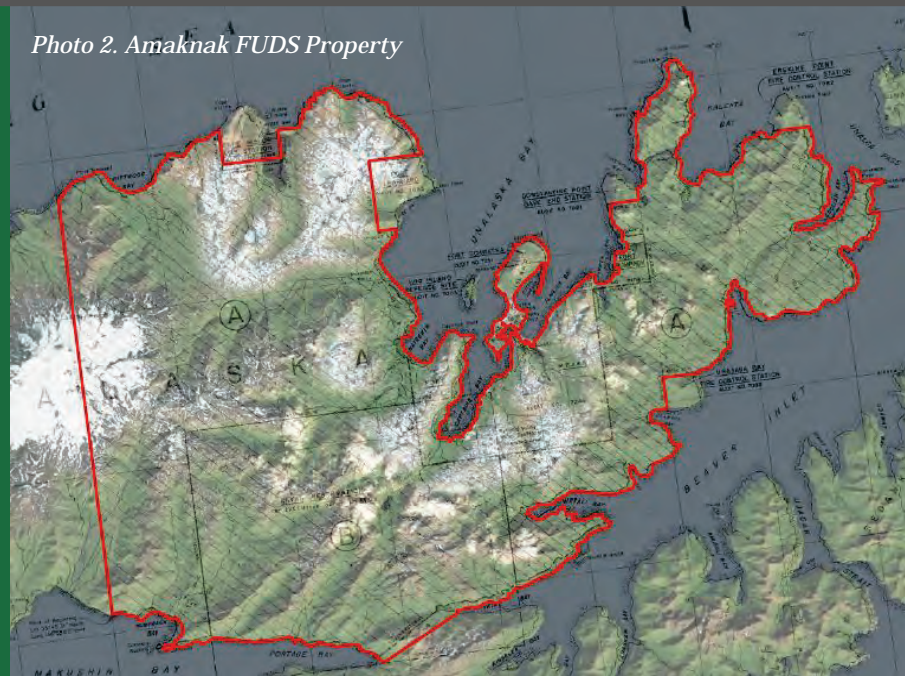


10,000+
feet of pipeline

CURRENT STATUS

The Amaknak FUDS consists of four active projects with ongoing or planned actions. Updates for these projects—Pre-WWII Tank Farm, Dutch Harbor Vicinity, Captain's Dock, and Range Complex No. 1—are discussed in greater detail in this newsletter.

Photo 2. Amaknak FUDS Property



PRE-WWII TANK FARM

The Pre-WWII Tank Farm is located on Amaknak Island on the west side of East Point Loop Road between Biorka Drive and Delta Way. The Pre-WWII Tank Farm originally consisted of five wood-stave aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) and five steel ASTs which reportedly held fuel oil, Bunker C, and/or diesel fuel. In 1941, five of the ten tanks were demolished and clean fill was placed over the entire area. The other five storage tanks were emptied and removed between 1942 and 1943. The site was then used as a parade ground, a softball field, and

A 2015 review concluded that the 2007 remedy is functioning as intended and no changes were indicated.

storage. Three buildings, a former WWII mess hall (Building 551) and WWII barracks (Buildings 547 and 549), still exist along the southern boundary of the site.

Beginning in 1990, the USACE conducted numerous

site investigations, remedial investigations, and remedial actions to identify and address soil and groundwater contamination at the site. Between 1998 and 2002, approximately 24,000 cy of petroleum-contaminated soil was excavated and treated. USACE has monitored groundwater regularly on site since 1998. Groundwater concentrations have not exceeded site-specific cleanup levels since 2004. An additional removal action in 2007 addressed remaining fuel-contaminated soil near one of the barracks where it was technically feasible. In 2015, USACE reviewed the remedies implemented in 2007 to ensure that the remedial action objectives for the site were met, that they continued to be protective of human health and the environment and were functioning as designed. The review concluded that the 2007 remedy is functioning as intended and no changes were indicated.

In 2019, the USACE installed cement wall board to block access to the crawlspace under the former WWII mess hall (Building 551), where complete removal of contaminated soil is not feasible. The most recent groundwater sampling event was also completed in 2019, with a draft report anticipated in February 2020.

A second periodic review of the site planned for 2020 will provide the basis for determining if additional remedial actions are necessary.



Photo 3. 2019 Groundwater Monitoring at the Pre-WWII Tank Farm



Photo 4. 2019 Monitoring Well Network Maintenance at the Pre-WWII Tank Farm



Photo 5. 2019 Building 551 Crawl Space Covers

DUTCH HARBOR VICINITY

The Dutch Harbor Vicinity project addresses old pipelines, Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) and ASTs, drums, and associated petroleum-contaminated soil from many locations throughout the Amaknak FUDS property. Many buildings that were removed early in the FUDS program are suspected to have had associated USTs that were not addressed during building removal. Historic information indicates that there may have been as many as 325 USTs, ranging from 300 to 3,000 gallons, at the site. Work to date has resulted in the removal of more than 200 USTs and ASTs, and the thermal treatment of more than 42,000 tons of petroleum-contaminated soil.

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In 2015, seven pipelines, Valve House H, five electrical vaults and associated contaminated soil, transformers, petroleum products, water, ancillary equipment, and debris were removed from Rocky Point. Also in 2015, site investigation activities (excavating test pits, collecting field screening and analytical samples, and surveying site features) were performed at nine sites on Amaknak and Unalaska Islands, including the following:

- Fort Mears USTs (Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation [ADEC] Hazard ID 1884)
- Unalaska Valley UST 2674 (ADEC Hazard ID 25812)
- Rocky Point Building 627 (ADEC Hazard ID 25704)
- Pyramid Valley USTs (Building 5264) (ADEC Hazard ID 25722)
- Unalaska Valley Ski Bowl Generator Building (ADEC Hazard ID 25804)
- Upper Unalaska Valley 165th Road and Ugadaga Road UST 3860 (ADEC Hazard ID 25811)
- Fort Mears Hospital UST (ADEC Hazard ID 25816)
- Fort Mears UST 820 (ADEC Hazard ID 25823)
- Summer Bay Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) and 55-Gallon Drum (ADEC Hazard ID 25843)

In 2016, removal activities were performed at two of the sites: Rocky Point Building 627 and Pyramid Valley USTs (Building 5264).

USACE plans further action at Upper Unalaska Valley 165th Road and Ugadaga Road UST 3860 and Fort Mears UST 820. USACE plans to compare soil concentrations at Mount Ballyhoo Drums and Unalaska Valley UST 2766 to site specific alternative cleanup levels to reach site closure.

Photo 6. 2016 Soil Removal at Rocky Point Building 627



RANGE COMPLEX NO. 1

Range Complex No. 1 has been identified through historical research and site visits as having potential explosive hazards. The munitions known or suspected to have been used at the property include medium caliber munitions and small arms ammunition. Range Complex No. 1 is located on and in the surrounding waters of Unalaska Island. Interim Risk Management communication was recently conducted to remind the community of potential hazards. Letters and safety guides were mailed to landowners. Because explosive hazards associated with military munitions from past military activities may remain on and in the surrounding waters of Range Complex

No. 1, USACE recommends that landowners and visitors follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety – Recognize, Retreat and Report. A safety guide regarding these hazards will be available at the public meeting in February as well as in the local information repository at the Unalaska Public Library.



CAPTAIN'S DOCK CHEMICAL AGENT

The Captain's Dock Chem Agent Disposal project was identified through historical research and site visits as having potential chemical hazards. Chemical Agent Identification Sets (CAIS) were found in the waters and intertidal area adjacent to the dock in early 1987. These sets were used by the military to train soldiers to identify chemical agents in the field. USACE recommends that landowners and visitors follow the 3Rs – Recognize, Retreat and Report. A safety guide regarding these hazards will be available at the public meeting in February as well as in the local information repository at the Unalaska Public Library. Interim Risk Management communication was recently conducted to remind the community of potential hazards. Letters and safety guides were mailed to landowners.

RECENT & FUTURE WORK

Field activities completed in October 2019 at the Pre-WWII Tank Farm include:

- Installation, decommissioning, and repair of various groundwater monitoring wells
- Groundwater sampling
- Site surveying
- Sealing of Building 551 crawlspace

Preliminary findings of this most recent fieldwork will be discussed at the public meeting scheduled for February 19, 2020 at The Grand Aleutian Hotel. In addition to completing the second periodic review of the remedies in place at the Pre-WWII Tank Farm, the USACE is also preparing a groundwater use determination for the site regarding use as a drinking water source.

Work is underway to prepare project closeout reports for various Dutch Harbor Vicinity sites with completed cleanup. USACE is also working to organize cleanup actions at the remaining impacted areas. This work will lead to a Status of Cleanup Activities and Timeline.

Under the Department of Defense's Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP), the USACE has implemented Interim Risk Management regarding possible munitions and CAIS at the Amaknak FUDS property. The USACE will rescore MMRP risk in coming years and conduct a future remedial investigation and feasibility study.



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Community members looking to learn more about ongoing cleanup activities have several upcoming ways to get involved.

A Public Meeting regarding current project status and future steps is planned for February 19, 2020 at 6 pm at The Grand Aleutian Hotel. Key members of the project team will be available during the meeting to answer questions and accept both oral and written comments. Those who wish to attend remotely can call the toll-free teleconference line at 1-800-523-8437 and enter the conference ID 123 627 8446. The meeting presentation will also be available for download from the USACE Alaska District's website at: <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Library/Reports-and-Studies/>. On that webpage, look under "Documents Available for Public Review" and expand the Environmental Cleanup link.

USACE representatives will host an Open House Q & A at the Unalaska Public Library from 1-4 PM on February 19, 2020 before the community-wide Public Meeting. Project team members will be available to meet with community members in 1-on-1 style meetings to answer questions and gather feedback from the public.

In summer of 2019, USACE performed a study to assess community interest in establishing a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) in the Unalaska area. The purpose of a RAB is to provide the government with community input on environmental restoration at the FUDS sites. A RAB, consisting of 5-10 members, is strictly advisory and is co-chaired by a representative of the USACE and a public citizen. Community members function in a voluntary capacity for one to two-year terms.

Due to the positive response to the community interviews, USACE representatives will be discussing the formation of a RAB at the February 19th public meeting. Attendees will learn about the purpose of a RAB and responsibilities of RAB members. RAB membership applications will be available at the public meeting. Interested parties are encouraged to attend or reach out to FUDS Project Manager, Rena Flint, to learn more.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Interviews conducted during the 2019 RAB Assessment indicated that the Unalaska community has the following concerns regarding FUDS in the area:

- Remaining contamination and its causes
- Impacts to subsistence foods and safety
- Contaminants in water
- Status of cleanup activities and timeline
- Response time to contamination
- Cost and funding sources for ongoing cleanup
- Regular updates to the community
- Hiring local workers for remedial activities

USACE welcomes public feedback on the Amaknak FUDS property and is committed to engaging the community throughout the cleanup process.



Please help us by forwarding this newsletter to other members of the community and look out for our next newsletter, planned for release in May 2020!

LEARN MORE

Information regarding the Amaknak FUDS property in this update is available for public review in the information repository at the Unalaska Public Library.

Unalaska Public Library

64 Eleanor Drive
PO Box 1370
Unalaska, AK 99685
(907) 581-5060

Available documents may include community relations plans, technical memoranda, remedial investigations, and removal action work plans and reports.

Information is also available from the USACE-Alaska District Public Affairs Office by phone at 907-753-2520 or by email at public.affairs3@usace.army.mil.