



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ALASKA  
P.O. BOX 6898  
ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA 99506-0898

August 3, 2006

Programs and Project Management Division  
Civil Works Management Branch

«Title» «FirstName» «LastName»

«Company»

«Address1»

«City», «State» «PostalCode»

Dear «Title» «LastName»:

A copy of the *Draft Feasibility Study (FS)* for the Northeast Cape FUDS on St. Lawrence Island was sent to your local Information Repository on June 29. My notification letter to you indicated that the comment period for this report ends August 17.

At the last RAB meeting in Gambell, July 18, we discussed this FS at some length. Several of you asked for an extension to the comment period. My concern is keeping the project on track for remediation to begin during the summer of 2008, subject to the availability of funding. I believe the comment period on the FS can be extended to September 8 and still meet that goal.

I've enclosed a Fact Sheet with this letter that describes where the Northeast Cape project is within the CERCLA framework for FUDS projects. I hope it helps to summarize a somewhat complicated process.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (907) 753-2689, or by e-mail at [carey.c.cossaboom@poa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:carey.c.cossaboom@poa02.usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

Carey Cossaboom  
Project Manager

Enclosure: Fact Sheet

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Title	FirstName	LastName	Company	Address1	City	State	PostalCode
Mr.	Leonard	Apangalook, Sr.		P.O.Box 93	Gambell	AK	99742
Mr.	Jerome	Apatiki		P.O. Box 12	Gambell	AK	99742
Mr.	Jeff	Brownlee	ADEC	555 Cordova St., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Anchorage	AK	99501
Mr.	Jesse	Gologergan		P.O. Box 105	Savoonga	AK	99769
Ms.	Jeanette	Iya	Savoonga IRA Building	P.O. Box 120	Savoonga	AK	99769
Ms.	C. Jane	Kava		P.O. Box 154	Savoonga	AK	99769
Mr.	Christopher	Koonooka		P.O. Box 123	Gambell	AK	99742
Mr.	Job	Koonooka		P.O. Box 123	Gambell	AK	99742
Ms.	Pam	Miller	Alaska Community Action on Toxics	505 W. Northern Lights Blvd. #205	Anchorage	AK	99503
Mr.	George	Noongwook		P.O. Box 81	Savoonga	AK	99769
Mr.	Jerry	Reichlin	Fortier and Mikko	101 W. Bensen Blvd., Suite 304	Anchorage	AK	99503
Mr.	Paul	Rookok, Sr.		P.O. Box 135	Savoonga	AK	99769
Mr.	Kevin	Zweifel	Norton Sound Health Corporation	P.O. Box 966	Nome	AK	99762
Ms.	Vi	Waghiyi	Alaska Community Action on Toxics	505 W. Northern Lights Blvd. #205	Anchorage	AK	99503

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# FACT SHEET

## NORTHEAST CAPE FUDS ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND, ALASKA



Alaska District

August 2006

### Background

The Alaska District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is advancing remedial activities at the Northeast Cape Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) under the authority of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP).

The Northeast Cape site is located on St. Lawrence Island, approximately 130 miles southwest of Nome in the Bering Sea. The site is 60 miles east of the village of Savoonga, between Kitnagak Bay and Kangighsak Point, extending south to include Kangukhsam Mountain. The site extends over approximately 4 square miles of the island.

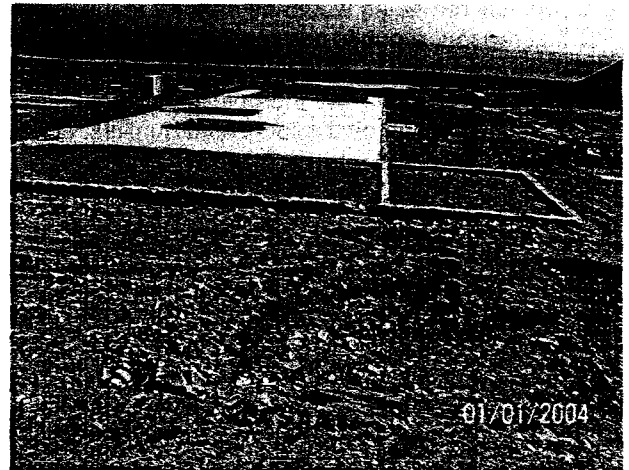
The military developed and used the Northeast Cape site from the mid-1950s to early 1970s. The original site supported 212 people. The Northeast Cape site provided radar coverage and surveillance for the Alaskan Air Command, and later for the North American Air Defense Command, as part of an Alaskan system constructed to reduce vulnerability to bomber attack across the polar regions.

### Previous Activities

A preliminary reconnaissance of the site was completed in 1985 under contract with URS Consultants. The Navy conducted a removal action at the White Alice portion of the site in 1990 and removed transformers, hazardous wastes, and drums. URS Consultants completed Site Inspection Reports in 1991 and 1992; Ecology & Environment updated the Chemical Data Acquisition Plan during the same time period. In 1994, USACE began remedial investigations which inventoried hazardous buildings/ materials, and assessed the amount and types of chemicals in the environment. Remedial investigation sampling activities continued through 2004 via contracts with Montgomery Watson Harza and Shannon & Wilson. Building demolition, debris and containerized hazardous waste removal, and limited soil excavation activities occurred in 2000, 2001, 2003 and 2005 by way of contracts with Nugget Construction and Bristol Environmental. A Risk Assessment was completed in 2004 by Montgomery Watson Harza.

### Project Update

USACE has completed the demolition phase of the project. Removal actions were performed because the buildings and debris that existed at Northeast Cape posed safety hazards to humans and wildlife. The only visible signs of the former Northeast Cape White Alice station are some unpaved roads, an airstrip, the concrete building foundations and blackened areas of stained soils.



Remaining concerns at the former defense site are the contamination (predominantly petroleum hydrocarbons) within the soils and the groundwater. Also, two landfills remain (Site 7 and Site 9). The landfill at Site 7 has at least a few drums that still contain used waste oil.

### CERCLA Process

The investigation at Northeast Cape has followed the specific process designated in the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). USACE has completed the Preliminary Assessment, the Remedial Site Inspection, and the Remedial Investigation phases of the process.

### Feasibility Study

USACE is now within the Feasibility Study (FS) phase of the project. The FS has 5 main components:

- Calculates alternate cleanup levels (ACLs)
- Summarizes site information
- Outlines various remedial alternatives
- Evaluates these cleanup technologies
- Compares rough cost estimates for each alternative

The ACLs were calculated using specific information from the remedial investigations and the Risk Assessment. Several specific areas at Northeast Cape require no further action because remaining contamination at these sites does not exceed the ACLs. The primary objective of the FS, at sites where further concerns are indicated, is to ensure appropriate remedial alternatives are developed and evaluated. It is important to understand that, within the FS, no determinations are made as to which of the potential remedies would be best for these sites. For that reason, a public comment period on the FS is not required under CERCLA. Nonetheless, the Corps project team values the opinions and concerns expressed by the local communities, and the Corps seeks public input.

#### **Proposed Plan**

The next phase of the CERCLA process is the actual remedy selection. The first step in that process is the Proposed Plan (PP). The PP selects the preferred remedy for each site, from those alternatives described in the Feasibility Study. CERCLA mandates that a 30-60 day comment period occurs at this step with a public meeting to describe how the preferred alternative was selected.

#### **Decision Document**

The final decision on the remediation for the Northeast Cape FUDS will come with the Decision Document (DD) approved by the USACE commander with concurrence from the State of Alaska. A Responsiveness Summary is a key element of the DD, in which the government responds to every comment submitted in writing on the Proposed Plan, and to any comments made verbally at the Public Meeting that are not answered to the public's satisfaction.

#### **Site Remediation Schedule**

The goal of the Northeast Cape project team is to begin remediation in 2008, subject to the availability of funds.



08/16/2005

#### **Contact Information**

Carey Cossaboom, Project Manager  
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District  
 P.O. Box 6898 (CEPOA-PM-C-FUDS)  
 Elmendorf AFB, AK 99508-0898  
 (907) 753-2689 phone (907) 753-5626 fax  
[carey.c.cossaboom@poa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:carey.c.cossaboom@poa02.usace.army.mil)

#### **Information Repositories**

Site documentation may be viewed at the following locations:

##### **Sivuqaq Corporation Building (Lodge)**

P.O. Box 101  
 Gambell, Alaska 99742  
 Phone: (907) 985-5826  
 Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

##### **Savoonga City Building**

P.O. Box 120  
 Savoonga, Alaska 99769  
 Phone: (907) 984-6414  
 Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

##### **UAF Northwest Campus Library**

East Front Street, Pouch 400  
 Nome, Alaska 99762  
 Phone: (907) 443-6101  
 Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

##### **Alaska Resource Library and Information Services (ARLIS)**

Library Building, 3211 Providence Drive, Suite 111  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
 Phone: (907) 272-7547  
 Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.