

NCSDF 5.14

File

June 9, 1989

465-2671

Jeff Ingalls, Ecologist
Hazardous Waste Mgmt.

White Alice Site-Anvil
Mountain Nome
Non-Notifier

RCRA inspectors Jeff Ingalls of the Juneau Central Office and Rich Cormack of the Northern Regional Office conducted a visual site inspection of the Anvil Mountain White Alice communication site in Nome, Alaska on June 8, 1989. This inspection was conducted at the request of Irene Alexakos of the Environmental Protection Agency, Alaska Operations Office. Ms. Alexakos was interested in determining if any hazardous waste activities, (primarily relating to CERCLA) have occurred or were currently occurring on this site.

The site notified EPA of their hazardous waste management activities in May 1981. Under "dates of waste handling" they have 1957 through 1980. Their EPA identification number is AK7570028616. The facility under waste types checked "sanitary/refuse" and "mixed municipal." Known, suspected or likely releases to the environment is listed as "none". The site no longer appears on the EPA RCRA handlers list for the State of Alaska.

We met with the site watchman George Motschman at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Motschman explained that he had been the watchman for the Anvil Mountain White Alice site and five other sites for about 10 years. Mr. Motschman stated that he worked at the Anvil Mountain site prior to becoming the watchman for the six White Alice sites.

Mr. Motschman explained that the Anvil Mountain site was obtained by the U.S. Air Force by means of a military withdrawal from the BLM in 1954. He further stated that the U.S. Air Force still holds the withdrawal. According to Mr. Motschman the site was used strictly for communications, no radar. Four repeaters are still standing on this site. Refer to the attached photos.

Mr. Motschman explained, with regard to generation of hazardous waste, that about 4 years ago the U.S. Army in conjunction with the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) cleaned up the Anvil Mountain site. He explained that the wastes were PCB oils and waste oil. He had no records of the clean up and could not recall by name who was involved. The site did have six

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old 55 gallon drums that were empty and were now filled with rocks to help support one of the stations during high winds.

Mr. Motschman stated that he also looked after 5 other White Alice sites in the region. The sites were:

- (1) Northeast Cape; a radar and communication site currently owned by the Native Corporation;
- (2) Kotzebue; a radar and communication site currently owned by the FAA. The radar equipment at this site is still in use;
- (3) Granite Mountain; a communication site currently owned by the U.S. Air Force;
- (4) Tin City; a communication site currently owned by the Navy;
- (5) Unakalet; a communication site that has been dismantled.

These sites according to Mr. Motschman have all been cleaned up of PCB waste and waste oil. Again these wastes were the only wastes Mr. Motschman was aware of on any of these sites. Mr. Motschman stated that he had physically been at each of these sites in the past year. He also stated that this Anvil Mountain site was scheduled to be dismantled soon.

While on site Mr. Motschman opened up the maintenance workshop building to demonstrate that all waste had been removed. He also explained that the University was doing some seismographic research on the site. We concluded the visual site inspection of the Anvil Mountain site at 3:05 p.m.

cc: David DiTraglia, DEC/CO
Irene Alexakos, EPA/AOO
Rich Cormack, DEC/NRO
Simon Mawson, DEC/Nome, DO