

PROJECT CLOSURE REPORT
And
NO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ACTION INDICATED
For
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE GAMBELL PROPERTY F10AK0696
CON/HTRW PROJECT F10AK069602
ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND, ALASKA

STATEMENT OF BASIS

Authority for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) for Containerized/Hazardous Toxic Radiological Waste (CON/HTRW) projects is derived from the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, 10 USC 2701-2707. The Gambell FUDS property number is F10AK0696. The CON/HTRW project number is F10AK069602.

The decision to closeout this CON/HTRW project is based on the results of Remedial Investigation and Removal Action Activities conducted between 1994 and 2005.

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Native Village of Gambell is located on St. Lawrence Island, in the western portion of the Bering Sea, approximately 200 air miles southwest of Nome, Alaska (see Figure 1). The village is situated on a gravel spit that projects north and westward from the island, at an elevation of 30 feet above mean sea level. St. Lawrence Island is currently owned jointly by Sivuqaq, Inc., in Gambell, Alaska, and the Savoonga Native Corporation in Savoonga, Alaska. Non-Native land on St. Lawrence Island is limited to state land used for airstrips and related facilities in Gambell and Savoonga.

Gambell is inhabited primarily by Native St. Lawrence Island Yupik people, who lead a subsistence-based lifestyle. The Gambell area supports habitat for a variety of seabirds, waterfowl, and mammals that either breed in or visit the area. The area surrounding the top of Sevuokuk Mountain, above the Village of Gambell, supports a large bird rookery. The birds and bird eggs serve as a subsistence food source for local inhabitants. The ocean surrounding the Gambell area is used extensively for subsistence hunting of whales, walrus, seals, sea birds, and fish.

The Gambell site was used by the military from 1948 until the late 1950's. Various facilities were constructed near the village of Gambell to provide housing and operations, aircraft radar, communications, and other functions. The military leased approximately

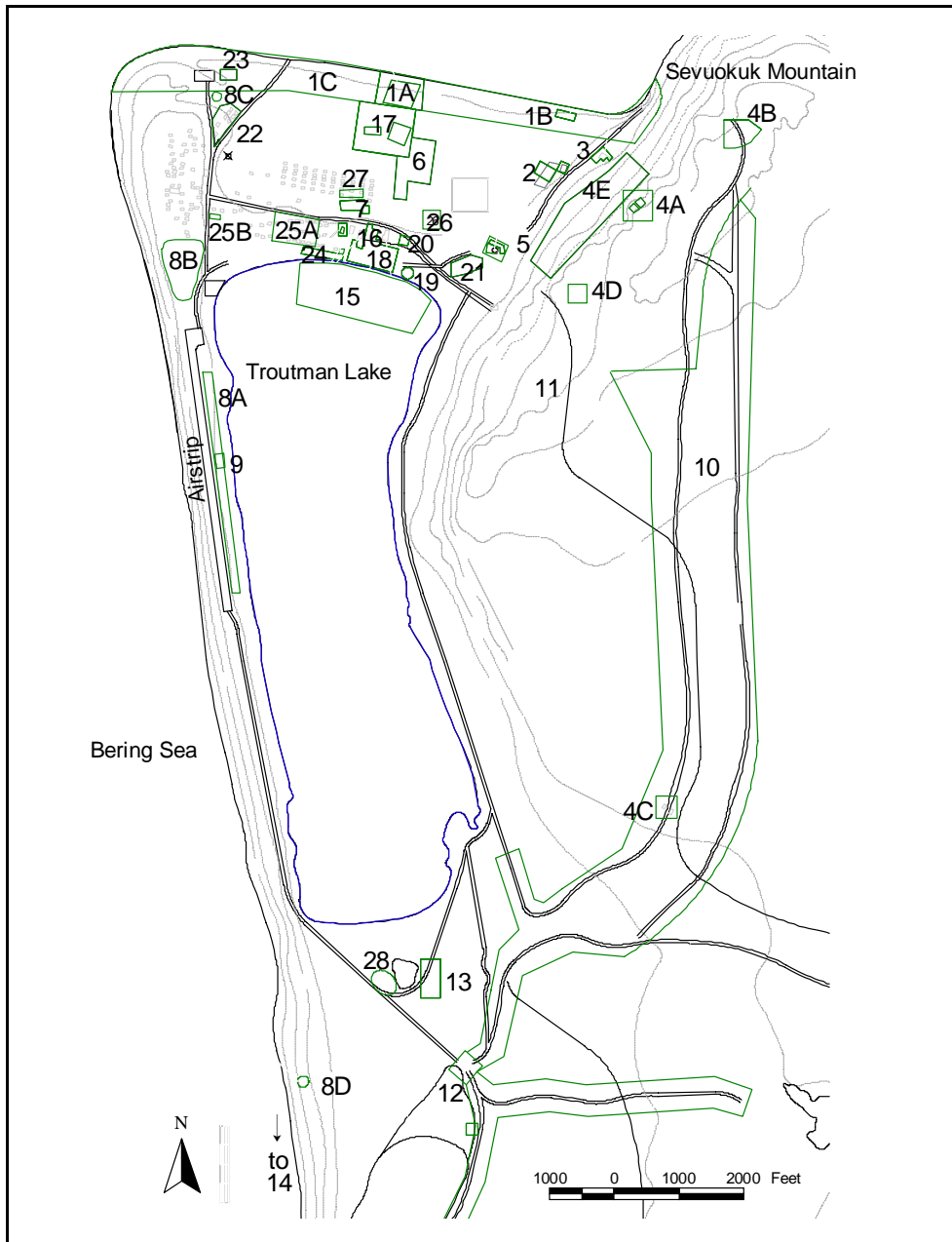
2,500 acres in Gambell. Thirty-eight (38) separate areas of concern were identified during the remedial investigation process between 1994 and 2001 (see Figure 2).

The Gambell Site, FUDS property # F10AK0696, is located on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, about 200 air miles southwest of Nome in the Bering Sea (see Figure 1). The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) tracks the entire site with rekey # 198532X917919, and also lists individual areas of concern by separate rekeys (198532X917920-32 and 198532X117901-13). The EPA identification number for Gambell is AKD981765894. The site is situated on a gravel spit at the northwest point of the island. Gambell is located at latitude 63° 46' 49" North and longitude 171° 43' 46" West.

Figure 1 – Site Vicinity Map



Figure 2 – Site Location Map



DESCRIPTION OF THE SELECTED REMEDY AND IMPLEMENTATION

This project closure report covers impacts identified as CON/HTRW. Of the 38 identified sites in Gambell, only 16 were impacted by CON/HTRW. A future report will close out Hazardous Toxic Radiological Waste (HTRW) impacts. For additional details on all contaminated soils associated with the former containerized wastes and other debris, please refer to the HTRW Decision Document finalized in 2005. The sites discussed in this document include:

Site	Description
Site 1, Area 1A	North Beach, Army Landing Area
Site 1, Area 1B	North Beach, Air Force Landing Area
3	Communications Facility
4A	Quonset Hut Area
4B	Former Radar Station
4C	Discarded Drums
4D	Former Transformers
5	Former Tramway Site
6	Military Landfill
7	Military Power Facility
9	Asphalt Drums
10	Army/Air Force Trails
12	Nayvaghat Lakes Disposal Site
15	Troutman Lake Disposal Site
17	Army Landfills
27	Drum Storage Area

Offsite disposal for CON/HTRW was chosen over On-Site Disposal for reasons of effectiveness, implementability and cost. A description of the CON/HTRW activities conducted at these sites is provided below. The sites are presented in the order they are shown on the above table.

Site 1 – North Beach

North Beach is the coastline strand which extends approximately 7,000 feet along the north shoreline of Gambell, from the base of Sevuokuk Mountain to West Beach. North Beach is largely undeveloped, except for the area immediately surrounding the village of Gambell where there is a human waste landfill, a drum dump with discarded above-ground tanks and household refuse, and a fenced solid waste landfill. Residents use the North Beach area to fish and to ride ATVs.

Area 1A – North Beach, Army Landing Area

Site Location and Description

This site is located in the central portion of the North Beach, where two well-established all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trails intersect. The Army landing area was located east of an area that is currently used by local residents to land or launch whaling boats. The site consisted of exposed surface debris including dead man anchors, engine pieces, a partially buried 100-foot crane, and other buried metallic debris which are periodically exposed and reclaimed by shifting gravels along the beach area. At the intersection of the two ATV roads, there is a pit containing drums, Marston matting, and weasel tracks. Soil contamination was not identified at this site during the remedial investigation and removal action activities.

Summary of CON/HTRW Activities

In 1997, Montgomery Watson removed all visible surface debris from Site 1A (5,545 pounds) and the surrounding beach area (3,630 pounds), including drums, corrugated roofing material, piping, Marston matting, weasel tracks, protruding parts of a buried crane, engines, cables, and other miscellaneous debris. No additional containerized waste remains onsite.

Area 1B – North Beach, Air Force Landing Area

Site Location and Description

This site is located west of Sevuokuk Mountain and approximately 1,900 feet east of the Army Landing Area on North Beach. The site contained exposed surface debris, rust-stained gravel, and a patch of tar-stained gravel. Soil and groundwater samples were taken and analyzed. Soil contamination was not identified at this site during the remedial investigation and removal action activities.

Summary of CON/HTRW Activities

In 1997, Montgomery Watson removed all visible surface debris from Site 1B (105 pounds) and the surrounding beach area (2,865 pounds), including Marston matting, empty drums, sheet metal, steel cables, and other miscellaneous debris. No additional containerized waste remains onsite.

Site 3 – Former Communications Facility Burial Area

Site Location and Description

Site 3 is located approximately 700 feet south of the North Beach, near the base of Sevuokuk Mountain. The preliminary assessment indicated the possible burial of Jamesway huts, power plant generators, transformers, oils, batteries, and sulfuric acid. Exposed above-ground debris included metal debris (weasel tracks and Marston matting), some pipe, empty drums, and guy wire anchors. Contaminated soils were identified at

amounts lower than cleanup levels. Further details are available in the HTRW Decision Document.

Summary of CON/HTRW Activities

In 1997, Montgomery Watson removed 1,740 pounds of debris from the vicinity of Site 3, including cable spools, corrugated metal, Marston matting, and cable wires. In 1999, Oil Spill Consultants, Inc. (OSCI) removed an additional 3,030 pounds of surface debris including weasel tracks, 3 empty fuel storage tanks, Marston matting, and drums. No additional containerized waste remains onsite.

Site 4A – Former Quonset Huts near USAF Radar Station

Site Location and Description

Site 4A consisted of collapsed Quonset hut frames and transformer casings located on the top of Sevuokuk Mountain. Contaminated soils were identified and excavated. Further details are available in the HTRW Decision Document.

Summary of CON/HTRW Activities

In 1997, Montgomery Watson removed the three empty transformer carcasses. In 1999, OSCI removed 14,772 pounds (7.4 tons) of debris, including two collapsed Quonset hut frames, metal siding, and drums. No additional containerized waste remains onsite.

Site 4B – Former USAF Radar Station

Site Location and Description

Site 4B was a US Air Force (USAF) radar station, located on top of Sevuokuk Mountain. The site covered an area approximately 375 feet by 500 feet. The radar station buildings burned, causing exploded ordnance and scattered debris. Drums, a tank, a generator and an engine block were discovered at the site. Contaminated soils were identified and excavated. Further details are available in the HTRW Decision Document.

Summary of CON/HTRW Activities

In 1999, OSCI removed 1.4 tons of miscellaneous metal debris from Site 4B. No additional containerized waste remains onsite.

Site 4C – Sevuokuk Mountain

Site Location and Description

Site 4C is located at the south end of Sevuokuk Mountain, and contained discarded drums along an ATV trail. Soil contamination was not identified at this site during the remedial investigation and removal action activities.

Summary of CON/HTRW Activities

Scattered drums were collected from along ATV trails and the surrounding tundra at the southern end of Sevuokuk Mountain by OSCI during the 1999 field season. OSCI removed a total of 12,516 pounds of drums and drum parts from the Army Trails (Site 10), which included the drums identified at Site 4C. No additional containerized waste remains onsite.

Site 4D – Sevuokuk Mountain**Site Location and Description**

At this site near the top of Sevuokuk Mountain, three empty transformer casings and miscellaneous debris were observed in a mountainside drainage above the pump house. Soil contamination was not identified at this site during the remedial investigation and removal action activities.

Summary of CON/HTRW Activities

In 1999, OSCI removed the three empty transformers from Site 4D. Wipe samples collected from inside each transformer carcass did not contain any PCBs. No additional containerized waste remains onsite.

Site 5 – Former Tramway Site**Site Location and Description**

Site 5 is located at the base of Sevuokuk Mountain, northeast of Troutman Lake and near the Village water supply. The site was suspected to contain buried tram cables or transformers. Contaminated soils and groundwater were identified and groundwater monitor well samples will be collected in 2006. Further details are available in the HTRW Decision Document.

Summary of CON/HTRW Activities

In 1997, the two geophysical anomalies were excavated. One anomaly contained debris from an abandoned Quonset hut and a battery, which were removed by Montgomery Watson and shipped off-site for disposal. The second anomaly contained seven 55-gallon drums filled with gravel and wrapped with wire cable, apparently used as anchors for the former tram system. The drum anchors were left in place and reburied. No additional containerized waste remains onsite.

Site 6 – Military Landfill

Site Location and Description

Site 6 is located north of the Gambell High School and east of the new housing area. This landfill was used to dispose of building materials, vehicles, machinery, drums of latrine waste, and miscellaneous debris. Contaminated soils were identified and excavated. Further details are available in the HTRW Decision Document.

Summary of CON/HTRW Activities

In 1999, OSCI removed exposed drums (7,897 pounds) and other metal debris (1,748 pounds). In 2003, the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP) funded a removal action at Site 6. Montgomery Watson Harza excavated and removed buried debris at the site, including mostly empty 55-gallon drums (latrine waste containers), engine parts, vehicle parts, Marston matting, metal spikes, piping, tin cans, miscellaneous household garbage, and used oil filters. Approximately 1,000 drums and other debris, and 2.5 tons of fuel-contaminated soils were excavated. There was no notable evidence of fuel contamination associated with the buried debris. No additional containerized waste remains onsite.

Site 7 – Former Military Power Facility

Site Location and Description

Site 7 is located north of the Gambell Municipal Building, and west of the Gambell School. A military power facility was reportedly demolished and buried in this location. A military motor pool building was also believed to be located in this vicinity. The site contained a concrete pad and surface debris. Contaminated soils were identified and excavated. Further details are available in the HTRW Decision Document.

Summary of CON/HTRW Activities

During 2003, MWH removed the concrete pad, underlying support timbers, a buried 55-gallon drum, and 1 cubic yard of incidental contaminated soils as part of a NALEMP project. No additional containerized waste remains onsite.

Site 9 – Asphalt Barrel Cache

Site Location and Description

This site is located on the east side of the local airport runway. Drums leaking tar were observed in two areas. A debris inventory prepared by Montgomery Watson in 1997 indicated drums containing asphalt (6,200 estimated pounds) and empty drums (900 pounds) were located within Site 8, which includes the area referred to as Site 9. The asphalt drums were initially attributed to non-military activities during the Phase I

investigation and not investigated further. OSCI overpacked and removed nine drums of asphalt (4,458 pounds) and associated stained soils (4,790 pounds) from east of the runway during the 1999 removal action. Contaminated soils were identified and excavated. Further details are available in the HTRW Decision Document.

Summary of CON/HTRW Activities

OSCI overpacked and removed nine drums of asphalt (4,458 pounds) east of the runway during the 1999 removal action activities. All empty drums were also removed. No additional containerized waste remains onsite.

Site 10 – Sevuokuk Mountain Trail

Site Location and Description

A trail system originates at the southeast end of Troutman Lake and separates into individual trails to the north, south, and east. Two trails lead to the top of Sevuokuk Mountain. Empty 55-gallon drums located approximately 250 feet apart marked the trails. Other debris at the site included Marston matting and weasel tracks. Contaminated soils were identified and excavated. Further details are available in the HTRW Decision Document.

Summary of CON/HTRW Activities

In 1999, OSCI removed all the scattered drums (12,516 pounds) and miscellaneous metallic debris (1,388 pounds). No additional containerized waste remains onsite.

Site 12 – North Nayvaghat Lakes Disposal Site

Site Location and Description

Site 12 is located north of Nayvaghat Lakes on the southwest side of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail. The site is divided into a north and a south area. The north area contained approximately 120 drums, battery remnants, and household refuse. The south area contained approximately 50 drums, including 18 drums full of garbage. Contaminated soils were identified and will be excavated in 2006. Further details are available in the HTRW Decision Document.

Summary of CON/HTRW Activities

In 1999, OSCI removed contaminated soil and debris from the site including drums, dried paint, and batteries. OSCI removed 798 pounds of metal debris/drums and 8,702 pounds of hazardous and toxic debris. No additional containerized waste remains onsite.

Site 17 – Army Landfills

Site Location and Description

The Army Landfills are located between the North Beach and Site 6 Military Landfill, which is north of the Gambell School and Municipal Building. The two landfills reportedly contained buried debris and/or trash, as well as exposed surface debris such as drums, Marston matting, and scrap metal. Soil contamination was not identified at this site during the remedial investigation and removal action activities.

Summary of CON/HTRW Activities

OSCI removed exposed miscellaneous surface debris, including nodwell tracks, Marston matting, steel cable and scrap metal during the 1999 removal action. The actual tonnage of debris removed was combined with Site 6 for a total of 1,748 pounds. No additional containerized waste remains onsite.

Site 27 – Drum Storage Area

Site Location and Description

Analysis of an aerial photograph from 1955 indicated this location was a historical drum storage area. The community was also concerned about an area of rust-stained soil at this site. The site is located north of the former military power facility (Site 7), within the new housing area. Soil contamination was not identified at this site during the remedial investigation and removal action activities.

Summary of CON/HTRW Activities

The drums stored at this site were removed prior to 1994. No additional containerized waste remains onsite.

DATA REFERENCES

Montgomery Watson (MW). 1995. Remedial Investigation (Volume 1-Report), Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. January, 1995.

MW. 1996. Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. Final. April, 1996.

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MW. 1999. Site 5 Remedial Investigation, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. May, 1999.

Montgomery Watson Harza Americas, Inc. (MWH). 2002. Final Summary Report, 2001 Supplemental Remedial Investigation, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. April, 2002.

MWH. 2004. Gambell NALEMP Removal Action Report, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. Final. February, 2004.

Oil Spill Consultants, Inc. (OSCI). 2001. Remedial Action Report for Debris Removal and Containerized Hazardous Waste and Toxic Waste Removal, Gambell, Alaska. Final. February 15, 2001.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (USACE). 2005. Decision Document, Gambell Formerly Used Defense Site, Gambell, Alaska. Final. June, 2005.

DECLARATION

In accordance with the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites, the U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska, has completed all CON/HTRW (Project F10AK069602) activities required for the selected remedy. The Gambell CON/HTRW project is now clear of tanks, drums, and other containerized wastes of military origin. The project reports referenced above support the conclusion that all known sources of CON/HTRW have been removed and that no further CON/HTRW actions are required at this site.

This project closure document has been prepared and approved by the undersigned in accordance with the FUDS Program Policy, ER 200-3-1, 10 May 2004.

If new information becomes available that indicates additional FUDS program eligible containerized wastes occur on-site, the site may be re-evaluated for CON/HTRW project eligibility.

APPROVED:

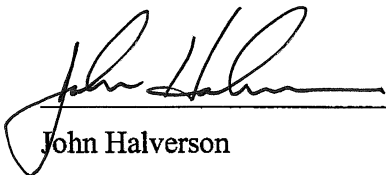


Date 19 Sept 06

Kevin J. Wilson
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander

REVIEW AND CONCURRENCE:

The State of Alaska, through the Department of Environmental Conservation concurs with this USACE project closure. The decision may be reviewed and modified in the future if new information becomes available that indicates the presence of previously undiscovered containerized waste that may cause unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.



Date 9/26/06

John Halverson
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Department of Defense Environmental Program Manager