

# FACT SHEET

## DECISION DOCUMENT

### Gambell Formerly Used Defense Site St. Lawrence Island, Alaska



April 2005

#### Background

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

The Gambell site (FUDS #F10AK0696) is located on St. Lawrence Island, approximately 200 miles southwest of Nome in the Bering Sea and 36 miles east of the Chukotsk Peninsula, Siberia. The Village of Gambell is situated on a gravel spit on the northwest end of the island.

The military established the Gambell site in the 1950s as part of a surveillance and intelligence-gathering network. Various units of the US Army and US Air Force utilized the area until the early 1960s.

#### Decision Document

The Corps of Engineers completed a remedial investigation at the Gambell site and evaluated remedial alternatives for the areas of concern. A Proposed Plan was distributed to the community in July 2004. A public meeting was held on July 21, 2004. A public comment period was from July 21 to August 30, 2004.

There were no significant changes between the Preferred Alternative that was submitted for public comment in the Proposed Plan and the Selected Remedy.



Site 5

However, the Corps of Engineers will conduct additional investigation of the groundwater quality at Site 5, to demonstrate compliance with ADEC groundwater cleanup criteria in 18 AAC 75.345 Table C. Three additional groundwater

monitoring events will be conducted at Site 5 to establish a concentration trend for petroleum hydrocarbons. A final decision on any appropriate remedial actions at Site 5 will be made after evaluating the investigation results.

The proposed removal of small arms ammunition at Site 8D was determined ineligible for the FUDS program under the BDDR category, because the material does not meet the definition of inherently hazardous debris, which presents a clear danger, likely to cause or having already caused, death or serious injury to a person exercising ordinary and reasonable care. The existing institutional controls will be maintained, focusing on community awareness and education, including ordnance information pamphlets and posters.

The Corps of Engineers will recommend that the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP) provide funding to remove the remaining small arms ammunition at Site 8D to fully address the remaining community and state concerns regarding the beach burial pit.



Site 8D

#### Description of Selected Remedy

The selected final remedy involves excavation and off-island landfill disposal of about 4 tons of arsenic-contaminated soil from Site 7 (Former Military Power Facility) and approximately 4 tons of lead and chromium contaminated soil at Site 12 (Nayvaghat Lakes Disposal Site).

The target cleanup levels are 11 mg/kg for arsenic, 26 mg/kg for chromium, and 400 mg/kg for lead.



Site 7



The selected final remedy also includes the removal of about 50 tons of exposed Marston matting debris along the east side of the airport runway (Site 8A).

No further action is the final selected remedy for 34 other sites in Gambell (Sites 1A, 1B, 1C, 2, 3, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 6, 8B, 8C, 8D, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25A, 25B, 26, 27, 28). However, the NALEMP Program will address several of these sites.



Site 12

### Next Steps

The remedial activities are scheduled to begin during the summer of 2005, pending selection of a contractor to perform the work.

The fieldwork is anticipated to last about 2 weeks. The groundwater monitoring events will occur during the summer, fall, and spring.

A final report will be prepared to document the contaminated soil and debris removal activities.

### Contact Information

Carey Cossaboom, Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District  
P.O. Box 6898 (CEPOA-PM-FUDS)  
Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506-6898  
(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 IRA Building

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

#### University of Alaska Fairbanks

##### Northwest Campus Library

Front Street (Pouch 400)  
Nome, Alaska 99762  
Phone: (907) 443-8415  
Hours: Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

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

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