

Adak Island UPDATE

Second 5-Year Review to Begin

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest

Introduction

August 2005

The *Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act* (CERCLA), also known as the "Superfund law," requires reviews of cleanup actions at Superfund sites be conducted at least once every five years. The purpose of these five-year reviews is to ensure the cleanup solutions (remedies) chosen for a site are functioning properly and continue to protect human health and the environment.

CERCLA Section 121 states that remedial actions which result in any hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remaining at the site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unre-

stricted exposure be reviewed every five years to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

The Navy has started the process of gathering the information necessary for a second five-year review at the former Naval Complex on Adak Island. The former Complex is divided into three "Operable Units" (OUs): A, B-1, and B-2. OU A addresses hazardous substance and petroleum releases to the environment, while OU B-1 and OU B-2 address unexploded ordnance hazards. OU B-2 addresses explosive hazards for sites within Parcel 4, which is currently the only portion of the former Naval Com-

plex where the Navy has retained ownership of the land. The sites that comprise OU A and OU B-1 (with the exception of portions of the Mt. Moffett area) are located on land where ownership has been transferred to various federal, state and local entities.

The Navy's first five-year review was completed in December of 2001 and focused on an assessment of remedies at OU A. Although much of the OU B-1 cleanup activities had not been completed at the time of the first review, the OU B-1 sites were also included in that first review report.

What is the purpose of the Five-Year Review process?

The five-year review process evaluates how well the remedies selected in the Records of Decision (RODs) have performed over the past five years. The RODs are the legal documents describing the selected cleanup actions, and they provide a road map for petroleum, chemical, and ordnance cleanup in specific areas on the former military base. If the five-year review process identifies any problems related to these cleanup actions, recommendations for corrective measures are developed.

An interim action ROD was signed in 1995 to address the Metals and Palisades landfills. The RODs for OU A and OU B-1 were prepared and signed by the Navy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) during 2000 and 2001. The ROD for OU B-2 has not yet been finalized. Therefore, while the five-year review will include some information on all three OUs, the focus of the second five-year review will be OU A and OU B-1.

Who will participate in this Five-Year Review?

The Navy is the lead agency for performing the five-year review; EPA and ADEC also participate in the review process. The Navy invites the City of Adak, The Aleut Corporation (TAC), and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT) to participate. Each of these entities own part of the former Adak Naval Complex. By including this diverse range of interests as part of the review team, the Navy expects to identify potential concerns regarding the protectiveness of the remedies at the former Naval Complex.

The Navy also encourages members of the community to tell them about site conditions or any concerns they may have. Ways in which community members might contact the Navy are provided at the end of this fact sheet.

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How does the Review work?

As part of the five-year review process, the Navy will ask the following questions:

1. Are the remedies functioning as intended by the RODs?
2. Are the assumptions used at the time the remedies were selected still valid?
3. Has any new information come to light that could call into question the protectiveness of the remedies?

The Navy is collecting information to help answer these questions. The Navy will:

- ❑ **Interview** EPA and ADEC representatives, Community Restoration Advisory Board members, TAC, ADOT, and Navy technical staff.

- ❑ **Review documents** that describe the cleanup actions taken and provide data collected from monitoring groundwater, sediment, surface water, and marine tissue (blue mussels and rock sole).

- ❑ **Conduct a site inspection** to visually confirm and document the conditions of the site.

- ❑ **Review any changes in environmental regulations** that might affect the remedies selected in the RODs.

- ❑ **Review any revisions to toxicological standards** for the contaminants present at elevated levels at the site.

Once all the information discussed above is collected and reviewed, a report will be written that summarizes the results and evaluates the protectiveness of the remedies. This report will be prepared in accordance with guidance the Navy and EPA have developed for five-year reviews. The public will be notified in the *Anchorage Daily News* when the five-year review has been completed.

The Navy's goal is to have the final five-year review report available in Summer 2006. A public notice will be issued at that time to announce that the report is available at the information repositories (listed at the end of the fact sheet).

What specific sites and areas will be included in the second Five-Year Review and what ROD findings will be evaluated?

Operable Unit A

OU A sites include all those locations throughout the former Naval Complex which were investigated for chemical and/or petroleum impacts. The 58 chemical sites and water bodies are often referred to as the "CERCLA sites" because the CERCLA regulations governed cleanup and the on-going monitoring and institutional controls at these locations. Of the 128 petroleum sites, 62 have further action.

The approximate locations of these sites are presented on Figure 1 for the CERCLA and petroleum sites.

The remedies for OU A described in the OU A ROD included the following actions:

- ❑ Digging out, treating and disposing of contaminated surface soils and sediment;
- ❑ Capping solid waste sites;

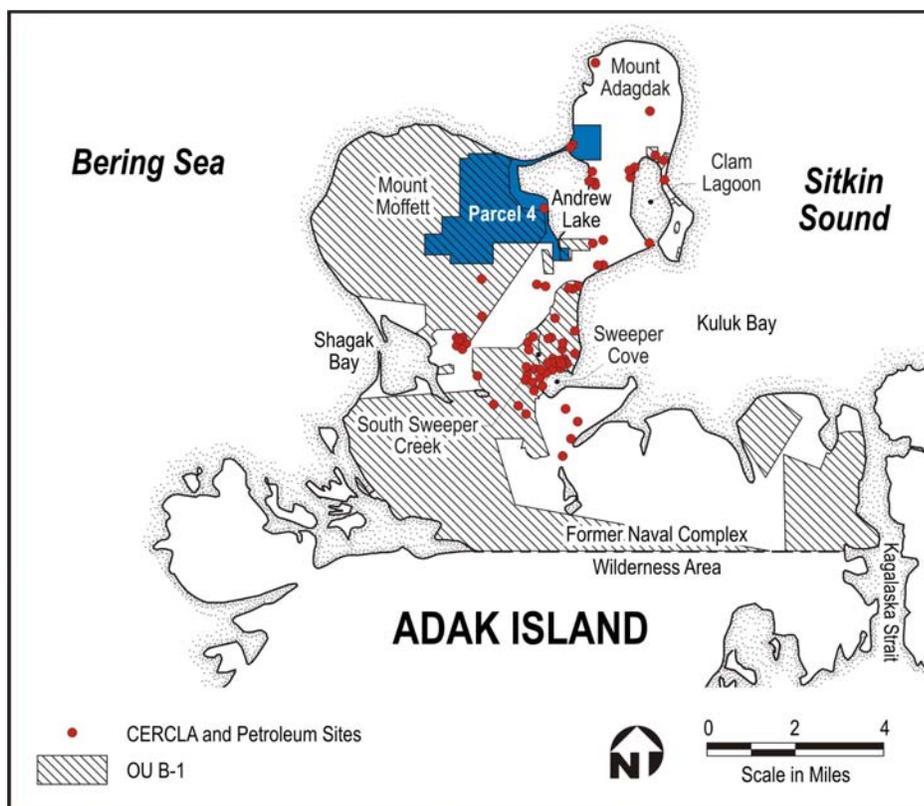


Figure 1.

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What specific sites and areas will be included in the second Five-Year Review and what ROD findings will be evaluated? (continued)

- ❑ Initiating institutional controls where exposure to hazardous substances may occur;
- ❑ Monitoring groundwater for chemicals of concern;
- ❑ Monitoring aquatic life for PCBs;
- ❑ Monitoring naturally occurring, biological breakdown of contaminants;
- ❑ Removing free product (free-floating petroleum) from groundwater and surface water.

Operable Unit B-1

One hundred and forty-four munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) areas of concern were included in the OU B-1 ROD. The OU B-1 areas are shown on Figure 1. Soil is the only medium that may have been impacted by ordnance.

The ROD requirements for clearance consisted of the following:

- ❑ Removing all metallic debris from the surface that could interfere with geophysical surveys
- ❑ Conducting a geophysical survey to find possible MEC
- ❑ Digging at all locations identified during the survey as having potential MEC items present
- ❑ Excavating and removing any identified targets to a depth of 4 feet below ground surface
- ❑ Disposing of the MEC by detonation in place or removal and treatment at a remote location

What happens after the Five-Year Review is complete?

The Navy will continue to monitor the site and will ensure any problems identified by the review team are addressed. As long as hazardous substances remain at the site above regulatory levels and limit its use, the Navy will conduct a review every five years.

For More Information or To Comment

If you have questions, want to comment as part of the five-year review process, or need additional information, please contact:

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Detailed site information, including the first five-year review report, is available at the website <http://www.adakupdate.com> and at the following information repositories:

University of Alaska Anchorage
Library Reserve Room
3211 Providence Dr.
M-F, 8 am to 5 pm
Contact: Librarian
907-786-1871

Bob Reeves High School
Adak, Adak Island
M-F, 8 am to 5 pm
Contact: Steve Hines
907-592-4500

Administrative Record
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