

DECLARATION OF PROJECT CLOSURE DECISION  
for  
DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE  
GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA, NON-ORDNANCE SITES  
NEAR DELTA JUNCTION, ALASKA  
FUDS Property #: F10AK098403

**STATEMENT OF BASIS**

Authority for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) projects is derived from the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, 10 United States Code 2701-2707. The decision to closeout this Hazardous, Toxic, or Radioactive Waste (HTRW) project is based on the results of a Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation performed in 1998, and remedial actions conducted between 1995 and 2003. The Final Closeout Report, Gerstle River Expansion Area, Non-Ordnance Sites dated April 2006 summarizes these activities.

**SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY**

The Gerstle River Expansion Area (GREA) is located in the interior of Alaska at approximately latitude 63.81833333 north and longitude -145.20027778 west. It is 230 air miles northeast of Anchorage and 20 air miles southeast of Delta Junction along the southern side of the Alaska Highway. The GREA is composed of approximately 80,000 acres and surrounds the Gerstle River Test Site (GRTS), a parcel of land still under US Army ownership. The site is still accessible by a fairly extensive road system constructed during development of the GRTS in the 1950s, and used for the Army testing program that occurred from 1964 through 1967.

The non-ordnance sites, Hazardous, Toxic, and Radiological Waste (HTRW-03) project consisted of two Borrow Pits (#1 and 3) and a Drum Disposal Area.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SELECTED REMEDY AND IMPLEMENTATION**

**Drum Disposal Area**

A drum and soil removal action along with an extensive soil sampling effort was performed. All of the drums and soil that had been previously located and investigated were removed. Two soil confirmation samples collected during the remedial action in 2000 indicated the presence of soil contamination above the migration to groundwater cleanup level, but below the ingestion/inhalation criteria. The soil was located at the center of the former excavation and extended from 11-14 feet below ground surface. Following backfill of the excavation a soil boring was advanced to determine the vertical extent of contamination remaining at the site. Contaminants were not detected above the cleanup level in this boring. USACE and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) agree that soil contamination remaining at this site does not pose a threat to human health, public safety or the environment for the following reasons: no significant

source remains; vertical migration of the contaminant is limited; and, the excessive depth to groundwater (over 300 feet below ground level) at the site. Based on the absence of any current or future hazards to human health or the environment, and the lack of any potential exposure pathways, no further action is necessary for this site.

#### Borrow Pit No. 1

Over several field seasons, drum and soil removal actions were performed along with confirmatory sampling. The source of the contamination has been removed and the results from all confirmatory samples showed that there is no residual soil contamination remaining at the site. Because the primary contaminants of concern are petroleum-related, and no other contaminants exceed the risk-based screening levels, no cumulative risk calculations were necessary for this site. Based on the absence of any current or future hazards to human health or the environment, no further action is necessary for this site.

#### Borrow Pit No. 3

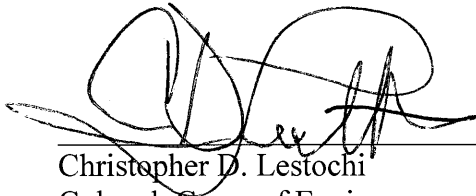
The source of the contamination has been removed. The lateral extent of the contamination has been characterized and the results from the confirmatory soil samples collected from the floor of the excavation indicate that the contaminated materials and soils have been removed from the site and no residual contaminants are present at concentrations above the cleanup criteria with one exception. Trichloroethylene (TCE) was detected during the 1999-2000 remedial investigation at a concentration (0.037 mg/kg) in one boring at a depth of 47 feet, slightly exceeding the ADEC migration-to-groundwater cleanup criteria (0.02 mg/kg). Confirmatory samples collected during the soil excavation in 2003 indicate that the source of the contamination has been removed and that levels of TCE remaining in the excavation were below the cleanup level. Soil contamination has now been buried beneath 15 feet of clean fill material; there is no potential exposure pathway for Ingestion or Inhalation. The potable aquifer in this area is several hundred feet deep, and unlikely to be affected by the low level detection of TCE at 47 feet below ground surface (bgs), detected in the single boring. USACE and ADEC agree the slight exceedance of TCE detected in the soil boring does not represent a significant volume of contamination, and is not a threat to human health, public safety, or the environment. Due to the lack of any complete exposure pathways at this site, cumulative risk calculations were determined not to be necessary. No further action is necessary for this site.

**DECLARATION**

In accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) and the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites, the U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska, has completed all activities required to support a closure determination at the Gerstle River Expansion Area, Non-Ordnance Sites, Near Delta Junction, Alaska.

The Final Closure Report dated April 2006 supports the conclusion that all known HTRW hazards have been investigated and remediated and no further DOD action is required at these sites. This decision may be reviewed and modified in the future if information becomes available which indicates the presence of eligible contamination or exposure routes that may cause a significant threat to public health, safety or the environment.

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 and no further HTRW actions are required at this project.

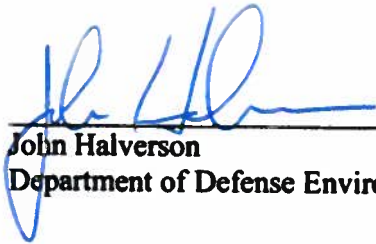


Christopher D. Lestochi  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander

Date 19 FEB 2013



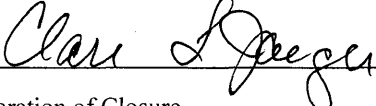
**REVIEW AND CONCURRENCE**

The State of Alaska, through the Department of Environmental Conservation, agrees this project closure for the Gerstle River Expansion Area, Non-Ordnance Sites is consistent with state cleanup requirements. The decision may be reviewed and modified in the future if information becomes available that indicates the presence of waste that may cause unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.



Date 3/28/2013

John Halverson  
Department of Defense Environmental Program Manager

<b>POA STAFF ACTION SUMMARY</b>		1. CONTROL# PM-13-016		2. Suspense 2013-02-18		
				3. Today's Date 2013-01-31		
4. Subject Gerstle River - Declaration of Project Closure - Non-Ordinance Sites						
5. Office Symbol CEPOA-PM-ESP		6. Action Officer Richard Ragle	7. Telephone # (907) 753-2683	8. E-mail Richard.A.Ragle@usace.army.mil		
<b>COORDINATION</b>						
9. Division	10. Name	11. Concur/Nonconcur	12. Comments		13. Date	
<input type="checkbox"/> 8 DC	COL Lestochi					
<input type="checkbox"/> 7 DDC	LTC James R. Stone				18 Feb 13	
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 DPM	Dr. McCallister	LDM -			15 Feb 13	
<input type="checkbox"/> EA		-				
<input type="checkbox"/> EN		-				
<input type="checkbox"/> CO		-				
14. Routing		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DDC	<input type="checkbox"/> DPM	<input type="checkbox"/> EN	<input type="checkbox"/> CO
15. For: Information <input type="checkbox"/>		Read-Ahead <input type="checkbox"/>	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Approval <input type="checkbox"/>	Signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
16. PURPOSE/BOTTOM LINE/DISCUSSION:						
1. PURPOSE: Obtain Commander's approval and signature of Declaration of Project Closeout Decision and No Department of Defense Action Indicated Report.						
2. BOTTOM LINE: All Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) response actions for this property have been completed.						
3. DISCUSSION: The decision to closeout this HTRW project is based on the results of remedial actions conducted between 1995 and 2003. ADEC has concurred that the work is complete and the project can be closed out. The Closeout Decision and Report were formerly signed by USACE in 2006, further work was requested by ADEC. That work has been completed.						
4. RESOURCE IMPACT: n/a						
5. ROUTING: Routing for the Commander will be done through PM-ESP Branch Chief, OC, PA, DPM and DDC.						
17. Releaser: Clare L. Jaeger, Branch Chief  2/12/13						
18. Recommendation: DC to sign enclosed Declaration of Closure.						
19. Action:		Approved <input type="checkbox"/>	See Me <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>		

**COORDINATION (cont.)**

20. Division	21. Name	22. Concur/Nonconcur	23. Comments	24. Date
4 OC	Stolzman <i>Mr. Gilbert</i>	<i>mg</i>		<i>14 Feb 13</i>
- RM		-		
- CT		-		
- RE		-		
- RD		-		
- LM		-		
- IR		-		
- SO		-		
- SEC		-		
- PAO		-		
- SB		-		
- EEO		-		
- CPAC		-		
- IM		-		
5 PA	Findtner	<i>FF</i>		<i>15 Feb 13</i>
3 PM-ESP	Jaeger	<i>ajg</i>		<i>2/12/13</i>
2 FUDS	Andraschko	<i>aw</i>		<i>2/11/13</i>
1 EN-EE	Geist	<i>SKB</i>	<i>concur</i>	<i>1/31/2013</i>
Misc. Offices		-		
Misc. Offices		-		
Misc. Offices		-		
Misc. Offices		-		
Misc. Offices		-		
Misc. Offices		-		