THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Environmental Conservation
DIVISION OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE
Contaminated Sites Program
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 907-269-7557
Fax: 907-269-7687
www.dec.alaska.gov

File: 1525.38.042

December 29, 2022

Kenneth Andraschko, P.E.
Chief, Alaska FUDS/NALEMP Program Section
USACE - Alaska District
CEPOA-PM-ESP
PO BOX 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

Re: Decision Document: Galankin Island Former Defense Site
Cleanup Complete Determination

Dear Mr. Andraschko,

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Contaminated Sites Program (DEC) has completed a review of the environmental records associated with the Galankin Island Former Defense Site located at Lot 3 on Whale Island, Alaska. Based on the information provided to date, it has been determined that the contaminant concentrations remaining on site do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment and no further remedial action will be required unless new information becomes available that indicates residual contaminants may pose an unacceptable risk.

This Cleanup Complete determination is based on the administrative record for the Galankin Island Former Defense Site, which is located in the DEC office in Anchorage, Alaska. This decision letter summarizes the site history, cleanup actions and levels, and standard site closure conditions that apply.

Site Name and Location:
Galankin Island Former Defense Site
Lot 3 on Whale Island
Sitka, AK 99835

Name and Mailing Address of Contact Party:
Kenneth Andraschko, P.E.
USACE - Alaska District
CEPOA-PM-ESP
PO BOX 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

DEC Site Identifiers:
File No.: 1525.38.042
Hazard ID.: 3727

Regulatory Authority for Determination:
18 AAC 75

Site Description and Background
The Galankin Island Defense site consisted of 140 acres of land on Passage, Kayak, Whale, McClellan, Beardslee, and Bamboroshni Islands in Sitka Sound, Alaska (See enclosed Figure 1). The Department of Defense (DoD) obtained all the islands in a land transfer in 1943. Whale and Kayak Islands were the only islands that received substantial improvements under DoD use. A military drawing of the Whale Island indicates 16 barracks, a mess hall, four elephant sheds, a water tank, an administration building, and a powerhouse that included a vault transformer, a fuel tank (above ground storage tank), two-gun emplacements, a dock a recreation hall, and observation posts were present. A plot for Kayak Island indicates two barracks buildings, a mess hall, two searchlight sheds, two storage sheds, two lookout posts, two fuel tanks (above ground storage tanks), and a powerhouse. The suspected contamination sources at the islands are spills originating from the fuel tanks and releases from the powerhouse operation. The land was transferred back to Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management in 1944. Kayak Island (1.75 acres) is owned by Alaska Trust Land Office (ATLO), Whale Island (41 acres) is a mix of private and ATLO ownership.

Cleanup Levels
All sample results are below the most stringent 18 AAC 75.341 Method 2 soil cleanup levels.

Characterization and Cleanup Activities
In 1989 a site investigation was conducted at the former Galankin Island Defense site and no hazardous/toxic waste, ordinance, or unsafe debris were found.

The Kayak and Whale islands were investigated for potential contamination in 1998.
On Kayak Island, a location of the former powerhouse (vaulted transformer and fuel supply) was identified as the only area of interest. Surface soil samples were not collected because no contamination was observed. On Whale Island the former powerhouse (vaulted transformer and fuel supply) and a location of the removed aboveground diesel fuel storage tank near the island's dock were identified as areas of interest. One soil sample was collected at the Whale Island, near the former location of a fuel tank from the material that appeared to be the most contaminated. The sample was analyzed for benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, total xylenes (BTEX), gasoline range organics (GRO), diesel range organics (DRO), residual range organics (RRO), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The analytical sample results for RRO and DRO were 460 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) and 176 mg/kg respectively All contaminants were below the applicable cleanup levels.

In 1999 four soil samples were collected on Whale Island (see enclosed Figure 2 for sample locations). Contamination was identified in one soil sample from a location of a newly discovered, empty, unmarked (unknown origin), rusted 55-gallon drum in the center of the island. The estimated area of the contaminated soil was no greater than 100 square feet. Soil samples were analyzed for PAHs, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs) and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs). TPH was detected at a concentration of 2,700 mg/kg. No PAH analytes or PCBs were detected in any sample.

Surface water on Whale Island passes through intermittent pools and streams before entering the Sitka Sound. It is anticipated that the intermittent bodies of water vary in volume based on the time of year and rainfall received and are located intermittently in low areas where the organic mat has allowed water to pool or channel.

Contamination identified in the soil was below the DEC migration to groundwater cleanup levels and is not expected to migrate to groundwater or surface water.

Cumulative Risk Evaluation
Pursuant to 18 AAC 75.325(g), when detectable contamination remains on-site following a cleanup, a cumulative risk determination must be made that the risk from hazardous substances does not exceed a cumulative carcinogenic risk standard of 1 in 100,000 across all exposure pathways and does not exceed a cumulative noncarcinogenic risk standard at a hazard index of one across all exposure pathways.

Based on a review of the environmental record, DEC has determined that residual contaminant concentrations meet the human health cumulative risk criteria for residential land use.

Exposure Pathway Evaluation
Following investigation and cleanup at the site, exposure to the remaining contaminants was evaluated using DEC's Exposure Tracking Model (ETM). Exposure pathways are the conduits by which contamination may reach human or ecological receptors. ETM results show all pathways to be one of the following: De-Minimis Exposure, Exposure Controlled, or Pathway Incomplete. A summary of this pathway evaluation is included in Table 2.

Table 2 – Exposure Pathway Evaluation

Pathway	Result	Explanation
Surface Soil Contact	De-Minimis Exposure	Contamination remains in the surface soil but is below applicable cleanup levels.
Sub-Surface Soil Contact	De-Minimis Exposure	Contamination remains in the sub-surface but is below applicable cleanup levels.
Inhalation – Outdoor Air	De-Minimis Exposure	Contamination is below applicable cleanup levels.
Inhalation – Indoor Air (vapor intrusion)	De-Minimis Exposure	Contamination in soil is below applicable cleanup levels. Volatile compounds are de-minimis.
Groundwater Ingestion	Pathway Incomplete	Contamination is below the migration to groundwater cleanup levels, and therefore not expected to migrate to groundwater.
Surface Water Ingestion	Pathway Incomplete	The nearest surface water body is 200ft from the discovered contamination. Based on site conditions, distance to surface water and soil sample results being below migration to groundwater cleanup levels, contamination is not expected to migrate to surface water.

Wild and Farmed Foods Ingestion	Pathway Incomplete	Contaminants of concern do not have the potential to bioaccumulate in plants or animals.
Exposure to Ecological Receptors	Pathway Incomplete	Contamination is below applicable cleanup levels. No aquatic or terrestrial routes are present.

Notes to Table 2: "De-Minimis Exposure" means that in DEC's judgment receptors are unlikely to be adversely affected by the minimal volume or concentration of remaining contamination. "Pathway Incomplete" means that in DEC's judgment contamination has no potential to contact receptors.

DEC Decision

Soil contamination at the site is at concentrations below the approved cleanup levels suitable for residential land use. This site will receive a "Cleanup Complete" designation on the Contaminated Sites Database, subject to the following standard conditions.

Standard Conditions

1. Any proposal to transport soil or groundwater off-site requires DEC approval in accordance with 18 AAC 75.325(i). A "site" as defined by 18 AAC 75.990 (115) an area that is contaminated, including areas contaminated by the migration of hazardous substances from a source area, regardless of property ownership. (See attached site figure.)

2. Movement or use of contaminated material in a manner that results in a violation of 18 AAC 70 water quality standards is prohibited.

3. Groundwater throughout Alaska is protected for use as a water supply for drinking, culinary and food processing, agriculture including irrigation and stock watering, aquaculture, and industrial use. Contaminated site cleanup complete determinations are based on groundwater being considered a potential drinking water source. In the event that groundwater from this site is to be used for other purposes in the future, such as aquaculture, additional testing and treatment may be required to ensure the water is suitable for its intended use.

This determination is in accordance with 18 AAC 75.380 and does not preclude DEC from requiring additional assessment and/or cleanup action if future information indicates that contaminants at this site may pose an unacceptable risk to human health, safety, or welfare or to the environment.

Appeal

Any person who disagrees with this decision may request an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 18 AAC 15.195 – 18 AAC 15.340 or an informal review by the Division Director in accordance with 18 AAC 15.185. Informal review requests must be delivered to the Division Director, 555 Cordova Street,
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2617, within 15 days after receiving the department's decision reviewable under this section. Adjudicatory hearing requests must be delivered to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, 410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303, P.O. Box 111800, Juneau, Alaska 99811-1800, within 30 days after the date of issuance of this letter, or within 30 days after the department issues a final decision under 18 AAC 15.185. If a hearing is not requested within 30 days, the right to appeal is waived.

If you have questions about this closure decision, please feel free to contact me at (907) 269 7552, or email at daniela.fawcett@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

Daniela Fawcett

Daniela Fawcett
Project Manager

Enclosures:

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: 1999 Site investigation sampling locations

cc: Spill Prevention and Response, Cost Recovery Unit

Note: This letter is being transmitted to you in electronic format only. If you require a paper copy, let us know and we will be happy to provide one to you. In the interest of reducing file space, the Division of SPAR/Contaminated Sites Program is transitioning to electronic transmission of project correspondence.

.

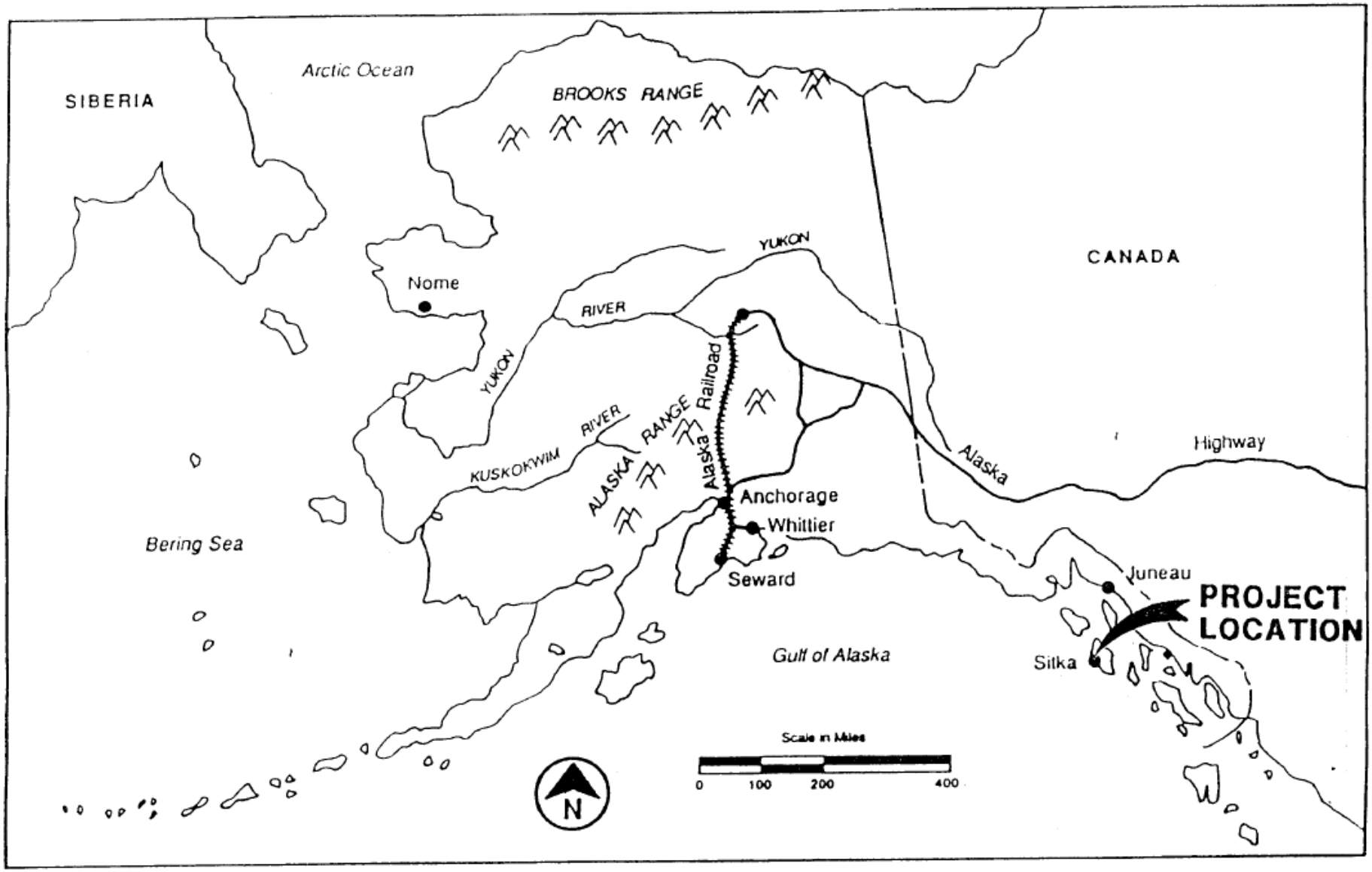

Figure 1: Site location

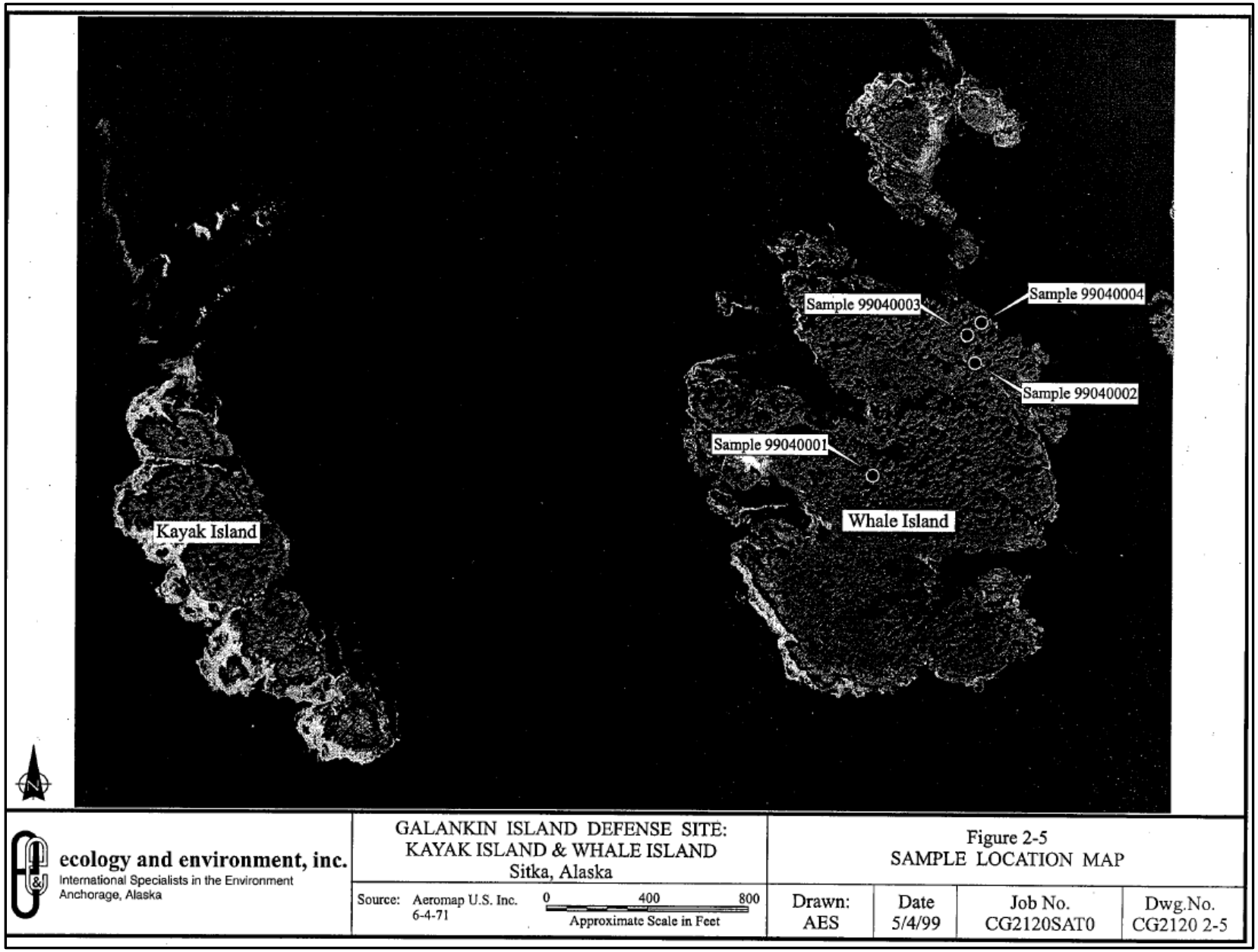

Figure 2: 1999 Site investigation sampling locations