



Division of Spill Prevention and Response Contaminated Sites Program

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CAPE ROMANZOF LONG RANGE RADAR SITE



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Database Name: Cape Romanzof

Status: Active

Location: near Scammon Bay

Latitude: 61.735820 North

Longitude: 165.938290 West

This site has a [Restoration Advisory Board](#), which involves the community.

DEC Contaminated Sites contact: [Louis Howard](#), Project Manager, (907) 269-7552 (Anchorage)

U.S. Air Force contact: [Keith Barnack](#), Operating Location Alaska Remote, Air Force Civil Engineer Center, 10471 20th St., Suite 341, JBER, AK 99506-2201, (907) 552-5160 and (800) 222-4137 (JBER stands for Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson)

Contacts updated: June 16, 2014

PDF Version

Summary updated: May 3, 2013

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Description

The Cape Romanzof Long Range Radar Site covers 4,900 acres within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. It was one of 10 original Aircraft Control and Warning sites in the Alaska Air Defense System. The nearest communities, Scammon Bay (pop. 498 in 2011) and Hooper Bay (pop. 1,137 in 2011), are located 15 miles east and south respectively. The Air Force has identified 15 contaminated sites that include landfills, drum storage areas, fuel spill areas and leaking underground storage tanks, or USTs. The facility continues to be operated as a minimally attended radar site.



This photo shows the road to the site on Cape Romanzof.

Response Actions

- ▶ In 1985, the Air Force had a release of roughly 14,000 gallons from a fuel bladder being pulled across the site. In 1991, a release of 46,000 gallons of diesel fuel occurred from an active pipeline.
- ▶ In 1992, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service released a report of its findings on an investigation at the facility. Creek sediments were contaminated with petroleum, and tissue samples from dolly varden, voles and red fox contained petroleum, PCBs and DDT-related compounds.
- ▶ In 1992, the Environmental Protection Agency conducted a preliminary site assessment at the facility and determined it did not score high enough to be added to the National Priorities List.
- ▶ In 1995, the Air Force excavated contaminated soils from three source areas – SS015 (a spill site/USTs), SS008 (a waste accumulation area) and SS014 (a drum storage area). At LF003 (a landfill site), a soil cover was installed as a remedial action.
- ▶ In 1997, three above-ground biocells were constructed to remediate the petroleum-contaminated soil. In 2000, the Air Force proposed to remove the three biocells and use them as cover on the active landfill since cleanup was not progressing as planned.
- ▶ In 2002, a Record of Decision for Interim Remedial Action was signed for SS013 (a spill site), SS015 and LF003. The selected remedy for SS013 and SS015 is monitored natural attenuation with institutional controls for petroleum-contaminated soil, sediment, groundwater and surface water. At LF003, the selected remedy is landfill closure with PCB hotspot removal of PCB-contaminated soil.
- ▶ In 2007, a Record of Decision for SS001 (a waste accumulation area), SS008, LF002 (a landfill), OT005 (road oiling site), OT006 (drums and building debris site) and LF012 (a disposal pit/landfill site) was signed. The selected remedy is no further action. A cleanup complete determination was given for the sites.
- ▶ In 2008, a Record of Decision was signed for SS007 (a spill/leak site), ST009 (a spill/leak site), SS014 and DP011 (a dump area). No further action is required for SS007, and a cleanup complete determination was given for it. The selected remedy for ST009 is conditional site closure, groundwater/surface water monitoring and institutional controls for soil and groundwater contaminated with petroleum. The selected remedy for SS014 and DP011 is conditional site closure with institutional controls. A cleanup complete with institutional controls determination was given to

SS014 and DP011.

Public Health and Environmental Concern

Soil is contaminated with PCBs, pesticides, diesel and other petroleum constituents. Groundwater contains diesel and other petroleum constituents. Multiple releases above ground and below ground have occurred at the facility.

People may be exposed to pollutants through dermal contact or accidental ingestion of contaminated soil or water. Contaminants that have bioaccumulated in fish and other wildlife may also pose a health threat to humans.

Current Status

Institutional controls remain in place for contaminated soil and groundwater at several sites. Long-term monitoring of surface water and groundwater is ongoing. A draft Proposed Plan is being developed for Landfill No. 2 (LF003), Spill/Leak No. 4 at the Weather Station Building (SS010), Upper Tram Terminal Area (SS016) and the Lower Tram Terminal Area (SS017).

There is a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) that includes the communities of Scammon Bay, Hooper Bay, Chevak and Paimuit. RAB members, and members of the public who attend the meetings, discuss environmental issues and community concerns with the installation and cleanup decision-makers. The RAB varies the community it meets in to include all the communities.

More Information

- ▶ Proposed Plan (Air Force, July 2012) – Final Remedial Actions for the Environmental Restoration Program sites LF003, SS010, SS016 and SS017 ([pdf 9.1MB](#)).
- ▶ Fact sheet on the above Proposed Plan (Air Force, July 2012), ([pdf 192K](#)).
- ▶ All Air Force documents on the Cape Romanzof cleanup:

The Air Force Administrative Record for most 611th Civil Engineer Squadron sites in Alaska can be found at <http://www.adminrec.com/PACAF.asp?Location=Alaska>.

- ▶ Final Record of Decision (February 2008) – Spill/Leak 1 and 2 (SS007), Spill/Leak 3 (ST009), Drum Storage Area (SS014) and Dump Area (DP011).
- ▶ Final Record of Decision (January 2007) – Waste Accumulation Area No. 2 (SS001), Waste Accumulation Area No. 3 (SS008), Landfill No. 1 (LF002), Road Oiling (OT005), White Alice (OT006), 611th Disposal Pit/Debris Landfill (LF012).
- ▶ Record of Decision for Interim Remedial Action (March 2002) – Spill Site SS013, Spill Site SS015 and Landfill Site LF003.
- ▶ Site Summary ([PDF 10.4K](#)), January 2002
- ▶ Site Summary ([PDF 10.5K](#)), September 2000

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*Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
410 Willoughby Ave., Ste. 302
P.O. Box 111800
Juneau, AK 99811-1800*

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