



Fall 2004

Big Mountain Proposed Plan

Fact Sheet

U. S. Air Force 611 Civil Engineer Squadron

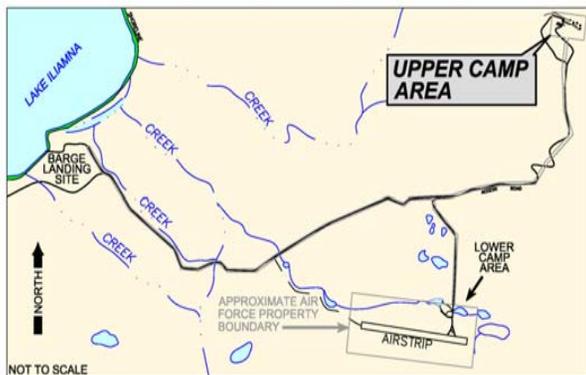


The U.S. Air Force (USAF) is engaged in environmental restoration of the Big Mountain RRS property. The USAF recently distributed a Proposed

Plan to area residents describing recommended cleanup actions at two Big Mountain Upper Camp sites. Recommended cleanup actions are based on 1998, 2003 and 2004 sampling studies.

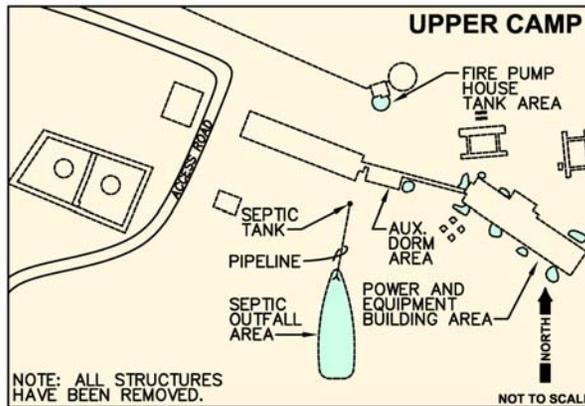
The 2003-04 investigation focused specifically on the two sites addressed in the Proposed Plan:

- The Septic Tank and Fire Pump House (SS009).
- The Power and Equipment Building (SS010).



The purpose of the investigation was to assess the degree and extent of potential contamination there. The table below summarizes the 2003-04 findings for each area.

| Areas Investigated in 2003 | Contaminants Present? | Proposed Action |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Septic Tank and Outfall (part of Site SS009) | Yes | Soil removal and off-site disposal |
| Fire Pump House Tank (part of Site SS009) | No | No action necessary |
| Power and Equipment Bldg. (part of Site SS010) | Yes | Soil removal and off-site disposal |
| Auxiliary Dormitory (part of Site SS010) | No | No action necessary |



Septic tank in foreground

The Septic Tank and Fire Pump House (SS009)

Septic Tank/Outfall Area

The 2003 sampling results identified polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and lead contaminants in the surface soils beneath the septic tank and pipeline, and downgradient of the pipeline's outfall. Up to 250 cubic yards of contaminated soil were identified for cleanup. In all cases, metals exceedances in soils were co-located with PCB exceedances and identified for cleanup. The Proposed Plan identified removal and off-site disposal as the most suitable cleanup option. This action is planned for the summer of 2005.



Sampling at Septic Outfall area

Fire Pump House Tank Area

Sampling results from 2003 and follow-up sampling in 2004 indicated that soils at the Fire Pump House Tank area are in compliance with accepted regulatory criteria established in the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's (ADEC's) Method Two soil cleanup levels [18 Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) 75.340]. This site is recommended for no further action.



Sampling at Fire Pump House area

The Power and Equipment Building (SS010)

Power and Equipment Area

The 2003 sampling results, and follow-up sampling in 2004, identified the degree and extent of PCB and metal contaminants (i.e. lead, antimony and cadmium) in isolated hot spots around the perimeter of the Power and Equipment Building. Approximately 230 cubic yards of contaminated soil from multiple locations were identified for cleanup. Most of the contaminants were identified in the top 2 feet of soil. In all cases, metals exceedances were co-located with PCB exceedances, and were proposed for removal and off-site disposal. This action is planned for the summer of 2005.



Sampling at Power and Equipment Building

Auxiliary Dormitory Area

The 2003 sampling results indicated that soils at the Auxilliary Dormitory structure are in compliance with accepted regulatory criteria established in ADEC's Method Two soil cleanup levels (18 AAC 75.340). This site is recommended for no further action.

Site Cleanup Objectives

The environmental cleanup actions recommended in the Proposed Plan are intended to meet applicable regulatory criteria, eliminate or reduce potential risks to human health or the environment, and facilitate unrestricted land use. Various alternatives were evaluated for



Sampling underneath septic outfall point

contaminated soil and off-site disposal, which has been approved by ADEC.

effectiveness, cost, and technical feasibility. The most suitable option identified for both sites is removal of

Community Input

The USAF distributed the Proposed Plan to area residents to solicit public input on the proposed cleanup remedies. This process of public involvement mirrors that required under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act for National Priority Listed sites.



View South from Upper Camp

The USAF welcomes and encourages interested residents to comment on the actions presented in the Proposed Plan. All public comments, as well as USAF responses, will be published in the final Record of Decision documenting site cleanup and closure.

We Want to Hear From You

Send comments in writing to the USAF
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