



U.S. COAST GUARD, ISC, KODIAK, ALASKA

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation • Division of Spill Prevention and Response

Site Description

The United States Coast Guard, Integrated Support Command, Kodiak facility is located in the Municipality of Kodiak, Alaska. The Support Center occupies approximately 23,000 acres, including much of the Buskin River Valley and Womens Bay. The Support Center is owned and operated by the United States Coast Guard. It is the main Coast Guard base for the North Pacific security, fisheries and search and rescue operations. The Support Center currently employs approximately 2,500 individuals (civilian and military) and provides on-site housing for Support Center personnel.

Many of the buildings and structures at the Support Center are from the World War II era when the Department of Defense established a Naval Base on Kodiak Island. The purpose of the base was to protect the Gulf of Alaska and serve as an intermediate point between installations at Cold Bay and Sitka. Between 1947 and 1969, Navy activities on Kodiak Island were phased out. On July 1, 1972, the entire complex was turned over to the Coast Guard.

Threats and Contaminants

Fifty years of military and Coast Guard operations have resulted in soil, groundwater, sediment and surface water contamination. Contaminants of potential concern include petroleum compounds, PCBs, paints, solvents, metals, herbicides, pesticides and leachate from solid waste that may effect human health and the environment. Possible impacts to the Buskin River, which runs through the Support Center, need to be evaluated.

An example of a high priority contaminated site is Drury Gulch. This drainage area was used as a disposal site during military operations. In the

mid-1980's the Corps of Engineers removed much of the solid waste during a cleanup project under the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) program. Recent soil sampling documented high levels of PCBs in soil within the gulch. The Corps of Engineers returned and covered a portion of this area (where there were <10 parts per million PCB in surface soil) with clean soil. It had planned to remove soil from areas with higher PCB levels and ship it off-site for disposal, however, much higher PCB levels (100,000 + ppm) were found and fieldwork was stopped to ensure proper planning, coordination and cleanup are done.

Public Health and Environmental Concerns

Soil and water contamination in the area poses both a potential human health and ecological risk. Buskin Lake serves as the primary source of drinking water for the Support Center. The Buskin River runs through the facility and is a major anadromous fish stream. The nature and extent of the contamination and impact on human and ecological receptors has not been fully evaluated.

Response Actions

The Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for cleaning up contamination from past military activities, while the USCG is responsible for cleaning up problems from its operations (along with anything the Corps does not cleanup).

Together they have conducted numerous investigations and cleanup actions at over 37 known sites on the USCG facility under various state and federal programs.

EPA issued the USCG a RCRA hazardous waste management facility permit on December 23,

1997. DEC coordinates oversight activities with EPA to ensure the work meets state requirements.

Current Status

The USCG and the Corps of Engineers are continuing systematic investigations, monitoring program and cleanup at sites throughout the base.