

# MEMORANDUM

320-15-703

State of Alaska

FILE COPY

TO: Distribution

DATE: September 1, 1987

FILE NO: Trip Report

TELEPHONE NO: 452-1714

FROM: Brad Fristoe  
Manager  
NSDO/ADEC/Fairbanks

SUBJECT: DEW Line Tour  
August 1987

On August 18-20, 1987, I accompanied the U.S. Air Force to all Alaska DEW Line sites to make inspections under the Installation Restoration Program (IRP). IRP was designed to assess past hazardous waste disposal and spill sites at Air Force installations and develop remedial actions for those sites which pose a threat to human health, welfare or the environment. Previous to the inspection potential sites had been identified through a survey. The inspection tour was to ground-assess sites for testing and further review. Individuals on the trip were:

Major Richard Carmichael  
2nd Lt. Dale Dietzel  
Jack Gusmano  
Brad Fristoe  
Joe Fitzgerald  
Steve James  
Bob Elder  
Linda Ewers

USAF  
USAF  
USEPA  
ADEC  
USAF Civilian  
Woodward-Clyde  
Woodward-Clyde  
Woodward-Clyde

Due to a previously arranged meeting, I missed the first site of Bullen Point, which is a DEW Line site that was abandoned in 1971. This report will point out deficiencies that I observed at the other sites. This report is not meant to be exhaustive and only reflects observations made during this trip.

During the trip, six sites were observed from Barter Island to Point Lay over a three-day period. Emphasis was placed on hazardous waste disposal and spills of hazardous materials. At various stops we held meetings with the supervisors of the facilities and local community officials.

POW-M (Barter Island). Erosion has continued to effect the cover on the old landfill which should be better armored and further covered. It is not known whether this site has ever received any hazardous wastes. A topographic map has been completed of the new landfill area. The information it provides should be used to develop a plan to divert drainage away from the new landfill. Extensive leachate was observed around this facility. Leakage was observed from the sewage line prior to disposal to the lagoon. The sewage treatment plant has not yet been approved for disposal to the tundra. The sewage lagoon had approximately one foot of freeboard. Leaking appeared to be occurring through the east dike where a profusion of lush vegetation was occurring.

The pit liquids were also piping out below the lagoon pipe outlet in the west dike. The containment dike around the fuel storage appears to be leaking or has leaked through the east dike. A diesel smell was observed in the waters just outside of this dike.

POW-2 (Oliktok). This site appeared to be in an overall good condition. There was evidence of a small old spill site near the airport hanger. The old landfill is located near the shoreline which could cause a problem as the coast erodes. It is not known if this site has ever received any hazardous wastes.

POW-1 (Lonely). The old Husky Dump, which has also been used by the DEW Line station, has been closed out but still had several problems. Cover barely covered to the end of the site. A lot of leachate which was high in hydrocarbons was observed coming out the fill edge. A number of sink holes have occurred in the cover. A second old landfill was discovered at the west end of the salt water lagoon. This site had adequate cover. It is not known if this site has ever received any hazardous wastes. A large fuel spill is suspected to have occurred on the south side of the Husky oil tanks located on the west end of the airstrip. If it is a spill, it occurred a number of years ago and has undergone some weathering.

POW-M (Barrow). Some contamination was observed around the fuel storage tanks. This is presumably from dewatering of the spill containment area. POW-M has always used the Barrow landfill and NARL facility for waste disposal.

LIZ-3 (Wainwright). The new dump has been extended into the drainage of the swale it is located in. The site supervisor was notified it should not be extended further in that direction. Oil sheens were observed around the landfill. A few oil filters were also observed and are suspected to be the source of sheens. Oil filters should be completely burned prior to landfilling or disposed of in a separate manner. The location of the old landfill was never determined. Extensive gravel mining has occurred in the area of the old landfill. It is not known whether the old landfill ever received hazardous waste.

LIZ-2 (Point Lay). An old dump site was inspected north of the village. This site contained surface scrap metal only. Some dead tundra was noted. The old landfill near the airstrip was closed out over this past summer. Water was draining through the site and exiting through the toe. An oil sheen was evident on the water. The site should be watched for settlement problems. It is not known whether the old landfill ever received hazardous waste. The new village landfill was observed from the air. No

cover was being used, open burning was occurring.

All closed out landfills need to be monitored for settlement, erosion and leachate. Closeout has consisted of gravel caps of less than two feet. Past practices have included the disposal of waste oils and other liquid wastes into the landfills. This practice complicates closeout. Disposals should be limited to ash and residue. It is recommended that closeout of any of the landfills should not be considered complete at this time.

BRFitss

Distributions:

- R. Cannone, NSDO/ADEC/Fairbanks
- R. Cormack, NSDO/ADEC/Fairbanks
- L. Dietrick, ADEC/Fairbanks
- D. Lowery, ADEC/Fairbanks
- J. Mach, ADEC/Fairbanks
- K. Mueller, NSDO/ADEC/Fairbanks
- D. Warren, ADEC/Fairbanks

File:

- 300.15.017
- 300.15.001
- 350.45.002
- 425.15.001
- 360.15.002
- 320.15.003
- 310.15.001