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Wrangell Junkyard

View detailed information from database on this site.

Status: Active

Database Name: Wrangell Junkyard

Location: 4-Mile Zimovia Highway, Wrangell

Latitude/Longitude: See database entry

DEC Contaminated Sites contact: Bruce Wanstall, Project Manager, 907-465-5210

Contacts updated: Aug. 1, 2012

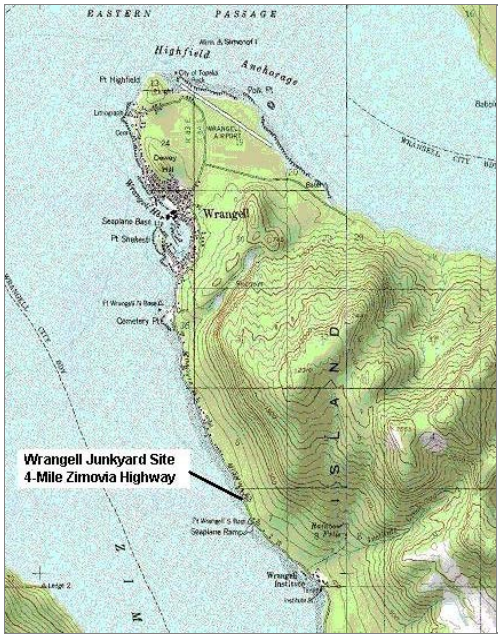
PDF Version

Summary updated: Aug. 1, 2012

Click on photos or maps for larger versions.

Description

Byford Salvage operated the Wrangell Junkyard from the early 1960s to the mid-1990s. The facility accepted drums and other containers, tires, batteries, boats and various scrap metal. The owner also operated a foundry in one of the two main shop buildings and disposed of roughly 1,500 cars and trucks at the site.



A map of the northwest portion of Wrangell Island in Southeast. The City and Borough of Wrangell (pop. 2,411 in 2011) is about 155 miles south of Juneau and 90 miles northwest of Ketchikan.

Public Health and Environmental Concerns

The site contains significant numbers of broken and burned batteries, and the soil has high concentrations of lead. The lead has migrated off-site to nearby intertidal sediments.

Mercury and PCBs (polychlorinated byphenyls) are present at the site, but the extent of mercury and PCB contamination is not well-defined. They will be considered in the site cleanup and risk evaluation.

Recent History and the Current Status

A preliminary assessment and screening-level sampling were conducted in August 2000. Then in 2001, additional sampling was conducted in 2001 to better define the areas of lead contamination.

After the City and Borough of Wrangell foreclosed on the property, it had a local contractor work to remove debris from the site. DEC, an Environmental Protection Agency representative and city officials inspected the removal operation in 2010.

Once the debris is removed and soil is accessible, an EPA Brownfield Program consultant will conduct additional characterization sample tests on the surface soil. Due to the high cost of barging lead-contaminated soil to a permitted landfill outside Alaska, feasible cleanup remedies such as on-site stabilization are being considered in conjunction with non-residential future land-use.

Randy Oliver, a local contractor, has removed a great deal of debris from the site, particularly in the previous year, as shown in this June 2012 photo with the Zimovia Highway in the foreground. The Wrangell Fire Department will burn and demolish the house, and Oliver will remove the remaining metal trailers and Conex shipping containers. (Photo courtesy of City and Borough of Wrangell)

More Information

For more information on the chronology of the cleanup, see the Wrangell Junkyard entry in DEC's Database of Contaminated Sites.

This photo shows another view of the area as of June 2012, when it was taken. (Photo courtesy of City and Borough of Wrangell)

A view of part of the former junkyard, looking south, is shown in this June 2012 photo. The house on the right is a rear view of the house on the Zimovia Highway in the first photo. (Photo courtesy of the City and Borough of Wrangell)

These two photos, taken in 2001, show the Wrangell Junkyard before debris was removed. (DEC photos)

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