



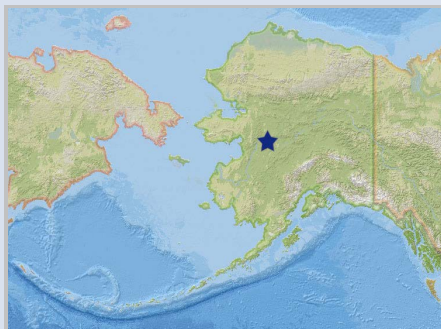
Division of Spill Prevention and Response Contaminated Sites Program

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EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE



[View detailed information from the database on this site](#)

Database Name: EiAFB, or Eielson AFB

Status: Active

Location: Eielson AFB near Fairbanks

Latitude: 64.7

Longitude: -147.1

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

DEC Contaminated Sites contact: [Kim DeRuyter](#), Project Manager for Eielson, Contaminated Sites Program, Spill Prevention and Response Division, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, 610 University Ave., Fairbanks, AK 99709-3643, (907) 451-2752, (907) 451-5105 Fax

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U.S. Air Force contact: [Pat Roth](#), Air Force Point of Contact for Eielson, Operating Location Alaska Remote, Air Force Civil Engineer Center, 10471 20th St., Suite 343, JBER, AK 99506-2200, (907) 552-7893, (907) 552-5311 Fax

U.S. EPA contact: [Jackie Kramer](#), EPA Project Manager for Eielson, Alaska Operations Office, Environmental Protection Agency, 222 W. Seventh Ave., Suite 19, Anchorage, AK 99513-7588, (907) 271-3541

Contacts updated: June 25, 2014

PDF Version

Summary updated: May 2005

Click on photos or maps for larger versions.

Description

Eielson Air Force Base (AFB) is an active installation established in 1944. The mission of the base is to train and equip soldiers for close air support of ground troops in an arctic environment (Eielson AFB, 2005). Eielson AFB is located approximately 25 miles southeast of Fairbanks, Alaska. The base encompasses approximately 20,000 acres, most of which is undeveloped forests, wetlands, and ponds. Approximately 3,600 acres have been developed. The base is located on the Tanana River floodplain and the slopes of the Yukon-Tanana uplands. Approximately 5,500 people live on base, with other personnel living in the nearby communities of North Pole, Salcha, and Moose Creek. The groundwater resources on base are used for drinking water and industrial, domestic, agricultural, and firefighting needs.

In November 1989, Eielson AFB was listed on the [National Priorities List \(NPL\)](#) of federal Superfund sites by the Environmental Protection Agency. In the 1994 [Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study](#) for Eielson AFB, 66 source areas of possible contamination were found. These sites are evaluated through the [Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act \(CERCLA\)](#).

In the 1995 Record of Decision for Eielson AFB, 29 areas were divided into six Operable Units based on common characteristics or contaminants, and 31 other areas of contamination were evaluated through a source evaluation process (SER). The remaining contaminated sites are addressed through ADEC regulations.



Public Health and Environmental Concerns

Groundwater has been contaminated with lead and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as trichloroethylene (TCE), benzene, and tetrachloroethylene (PCE). Used oils, solvents, and fuel have been discharged onto the ground and into the soil. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and pesticides have been identified in soils and sediments at Garrison Slough.

People may be exposed to these pollutants through dermal contact or accidental ingestion of contaminated soil or water. Contaminants such as PCBs or pesticides may [bioaccumulate](#) in fish and may pose a health threat to humans if consumed.

Current Status

In the 1995 Record of Decision, many of the potential sites were found not to pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment and were closed by EPA and ADEC (the five-year Record of Decision Review for 2003 describing this action is available on the Eielson website). Several sites were given a conditional closure and were placed under "[institutional controls](#)" to prevent people from being exposed to any remaining contamination.

Remediation activities occurred during the 1990's at many of the contaminated sites on Eielson AFB. Petroleum-contaminated soil was excavated and treated by landfarming. Soil caps were installed to prevent human exposure to contamination and limit the transport of contamination. Other sites had active remediation systems installed such as soil vapor extraction, bioventing, and free-product recovery wells.

At Garrison Slough, PCB contamination has impacted the sediments and fish. A portion of the PCB-contaminated sediments have been excavated, and the PCB contamination in fish tissue and sediments continue to be monitored. A fishing restriction is in place for Garrison Slough and physical fish gates restrict the passage of fish into and out of the contaminated area.

Currently, most of the sites are in a long-term monitoring program to ensure contaminant plumes are stable or decreasing and are not moving offsite or to drinking water wells. Several sites are still being treated by active remediation systems.

Institutional controls, such as restriction of ground-water use in certain areas, fishing advisory, and a dig permitting process for construction activities, are in place at Eielson AFB to prevent exposure to any remaining contamination.

More Information

- ▶ **January 2004 Five year review of the Record of Decision** (approved September 2003) - [pdf file](#), 12 MB - (on the US Air Force's Eielson AFB website)
- ▶ [US Environmental Protection Agency website on Eielson Air Force Base](#)

Contaminated Sites Database reports - There are a number of individual "contaminated sites" on the air station, and reports on the status of each is available on DEC's database. To see more, go to our [database page](#) and choose "Eielson AFB" in the City field. The list below are a number of the major ones. We have a [glossary](#) available to help you with any acronyms used in the reports.

- ▶ Eielson Farm Road AAA (AOC8) Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS)
- ▶ Eielson AFB (SS67) Garrison Slough PCBs
- ▶ Eielson AFB (OU-4) (SS35) Asphalt MixArea
- ▶ Eielson AFB (OU-2) (DP26) T300 Sludge Pit
- ▶ Eielson AFB (OU-2) (ST13) Hydrant System
- ▶ Eielson AFB (OU-3) (DP44) Battery Shop
- ▶ Eielson AFB (OU-3) (SS57) Bldg. 1206
- ▶ Eielson AFB (OU-3) (WP45) Photo Lab
- ▶ Eielson AFB (OU-5) (LF03) Landfill
- ▶ Eielson AFB (OU-5) (FT09) Fire Training
- ▶ Eielson AFB (OU-6) (WP38) Ski Lodge

DEC fact sheets

- ▶ Cleanup process for contaminated sites ([PDF 304K](#))
- ▶ How DEC Makes Cleanup Decisions ([PDF 20K](#))
- ▶ Introduction to Groundwater ([PDF 412K](#))
- ▶ Understanding Contaminant Concentrations ([PDF 164K](#))
- ▶ Department of Defense Cleanups ([PDF 59K](#))



At Garrison Slough, PCB contamination has impacted the sediments and fish tissue. A fishing restriction is in place for Garrison Slough.



Gates in Garrison Slough which prevent the passage of fish into and out of the contaminated reach of the slough.



Excavation of large underground storage tank on base.

- ▶ [Environmental Laws \(PDF 39K\)](#)
- ▶ [Cleanup Methods \(PDF 171K\)](#)

[Glossary/Acronyms](#) [Site Map](#) [Commissioner](#) [Public Notices](#) [External Links](#)

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