

**DECLARATION OF PROJECT CLOSURE DECISION  
And  
NO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ACTION INDICATED  
For  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE CON/HTRW PROJECT  
And  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE BD/DR PROJECT  
  
KASIANA ISLANDS BASE END STATION (F10AK0132 -01 and -02)  
SITKA, ALASKA**

**STATEMENT OF BASIS**

Authority for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) for Containerized Hazardous Toxic Radiological Waste (CON/HTRW) and Building Demolition and Debris Removal (BD/DR) projects is derived from the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, 10 USC 2701-2707. The decision to close out this CON/HTRW project and BD/DR project is based on the removal/remediation actions completed by the Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) under the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP) in 2010 and 2014. The August 2014 NDAI report summarizes this information.

**SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY**

The Kasiana Islands are located in Sitka Sound at 57°04'12"N latitude and 135°25'54"W longitude which is three miles northwest of the City of Sitka, Alaska. Sitka is located in the southeastern panhandle of Alaska, on the western coastline of Baranof Island.

The Kasiana Islands Base End Station was part of the World War II Sitka Harbor Defense network. The property consists of a series of small island groups, including the Kasiana Islands, the Apple and Parker Islands, and the islands of Abalone, Clam and Neva, comprising 185 acres of land. Clam and Abalone Islands, approximately 16 acres, were the only islands where improvements were constructed.

Construction at the Abalone Island Defense Site began in November 1942 and was completed in October 1944. Site improvements included a steel radar tower, steel radar building, and a pier. The radar was in service for three months and then removed when the need for the defense of Sitka diminished. The Abalone site was abandoned in July 1944.

Construction at the Clam Island Defense Site began in September 1942 and was completed in November 1943. Site improvements included a fire control appurtenance, two searchlight buildings, and Quonset hut housing. The Clam Island site was abandoned in July 1944.

The sites at both Abalone Island and Clam Island were officially relinquished to Department of the Interior on 7 August 1946. The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources currently owns the land on both islands. The islands are used for recreation and hunting by local residents.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE SELECTED REMEDY AND IMPLEMENTATION**

Demolition and removal of a shed and other miscellaneous debris was completed in October 2013. A total of 8,225 lbs of debris was removed from both islands and properly disposed at Stragier Sanitation, 220 Smith Street, in Sitka, Alaska. A ladder and electrical panel were removed. Remains from suspected fuel drums were removed. Sitka Tribe of Alaska also completed removal of lead communications cable in the vicinity of both islands between 2008 and 2009.

## **DECLARATION**

In accordance with the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites, the U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska, has completed all CON/HTRW and BD/DR activities at the Kasiana Islands Base End Station (F10AK0132 -01 and -02), Sitka, Alaska. This Declaration of Project Closure Decision supports the conclusion that all known sources of CON/HTRW and all unsafe buildings and structures and debris have been remediated. No further CON/HTRW or BD/DR actions are required by the DOD at this project location. This decision may be reviewed and modified in the future if any new information becomes available which indicates the presence of eligible CON/HTRW or BD/DR that may cause a risk to human health or the environment. There are no known remaining requirements at the Kasiana Islands Base End Station site.

This Declaration of Project Closure Decision has been prepared and approved by the undersigned in accordance with the FUDS Program Policy, Engineer Regulation (ER) 200-3-1, May 10, 2004.



Date

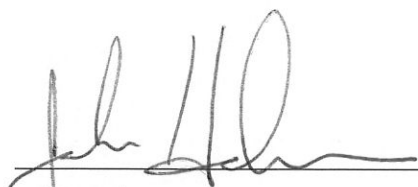
29 Sep 2014

Christopher D. Lestochi

Colonel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

District Commander

The State of Alaska, through the Department of Environmental Conservation agrees the closure of this CON/HTRW project and BD/DR project is consistent with state cleanup requirements. The decision may be reviewed and modified in the future if information becomes available that indicates the presence of contaminants or waste that may cause unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.



Date

11/24/2014

John Halverson

DOD Cleanup Unit Manager

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

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# No Department of Defense Action Indicated Report

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Containerized Hazardous, Toxic, or Radioactive Waste (CON/HTRW)  
Project # F10AK0132-01 at Abalone Island

Building Demolition and Debris Removal (BD/DR)  
Project # F10AK0132-02 at Clam Island

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Kasiana Islands Base End Station, Sitka, Alaska

August 2014



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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) authorizes the cleanup of contamination resulting from past military activities at sites no longer owned by the Department of Defense (DOD). Two projects were authorized in 2011:

A containerized hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste (CON/HTRW) project (F10AK0132-02) at Abalone Island to address lead-core cable.

A Building Demolition and Debris Removal (BD/DR) Project (F10AK0132-02) at Clam Island to address ladder which posed a climbing hazard.

Both projects are being recommended for closure and No DOD Action Indicated (NDAI) status based on the results of site remediation activities conducted by the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and summarized in the *Site Remediation Report, Clam and Abalone Island Remediation* dated March 2014. The report concluded: "Both Clam and Abalone are considered clean. No toxins or hazards remain at either site. The concrete bunkers that remain should not pose any hazards to Tribal Citizens while practicing subsistence in the areas."

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is an agent for the Department of Defense and has been assigned the responsibility of coordinating activities at Formerly Used Defense Sites. This No DOD Action Indicated (NDAI) report is issued by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (Alaska District); the lead agency for the Kasiana Island Base End Station FUDS.

## **2.0 SUMMARY OF SITE CONDITIONS**

### **2.1 Site Location and Features**

The Kasiana Islands are located in Sitka Sound at 57°04'12"N latitude and 135°25'54"W longitude which is three miles northwest of the City of Sitka, Alaska. Sitka is located in the southeastern panhandle of Alaska, on the western coastline of Baranof Island. The entire property consisted of a series of island groups and individual islands comprising 185 acres of land. Clam and Abalone Islands, approximately 16 acres in size, were the only islands where improvements were constructed. (See location map)

Approximately 600 feet of lead-core cable was located at the Abalone Island Defense Site portion of the Kasiana Islands Base End Station. The lead-core cable was believed to extend underwater 2 miles to Sitka. One end of the lead-core cable leads into the Sitka Sound on the southeast side of Abalone Island, the other end leads back into the island. The lead-core cable was predominately buried, except for a 10 foot section on the beach and occasional sections on the island. The cable was used for communication as part of the development of the island by U.S. Army infantry troops.

Installations on Abalone Island included: a radar utilities building, a generator, transformers, two underground storage tanks, and wiring sufficient to connect the SCR-296 tower to the lead-core

communication cable throughout the Sitka area. Only the radar has been removed from this site since 1941, all other buildings and debris remained until remediation efforts were completed.

Adjacent to Abalone Island is Clam Island. In 1942, the U.S. Army constructed: two searchlight stations #12 and #13; supporting fire control appurtenances; a water well; a two-tiered 6" gun appurtenance; an electrical utilities building; a two-tiered, double distant electrical control station; a small boat landing; an outhouse; Quonset huts with possible asbestos-containing insulation for troop housing; and lead-core communication cable. The original metal-rung ladder is present at the fire control appurtenance on Clam Island and poses a climbing hazard. The ladder is constructed of reinforcing steel imbedded in the concrete wall and it extends approximately 20 feet up the wall from the floor of the fire control appurtenance to the roof access hatch. There is evidence (trash) that the site is periodically visited. All debris planned to be removed were successfully removed; concrete structures were left intact.

## **2.2 History**

The Kasiana Islands Base End Station was part of the World War II Sitka Harbor Defense network. The site consists of a series of small islands, including the Kasiana Islands, the Apple and Parker Islands, and the islands of Abalone, Clam and Neva. Clam and Abalone were the only islands where improvements were constructed.

Construction at the Abalone Island Defense Site began in November 1942 and was completed in October 1944. Site improvements included a steel radar tower, steel radar building, and a pier. The radar was in service for three months and then removed when the need for the defense of Sitka diminished. The Abalone site was abandoned in July 1944.

Construction at the Clam Island Defense Site began in September 1942 and was completed in November 1943. Site improvements included a fire control appurtenance, two searchlight buildings, and Quonset hut housing. The Clam Island site was abandoned in July 1944.

The sites at both Abalone Island and Clam Island were officially relinquished to Department of the Interior on 7 August 1946. The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources currently owns the land on both islands. The islands are used for recreation and hunting by local residents.

## **3.0 REMEDIAL ACTIVITIES**

Based on previous site visits and inspections, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska conducted cleanup activities at the Kasiana Islands Base End Station site between 2010 and 2014. The Sitka Tribe of Alaska also removed lead communication cable from the vicinity in 2008-2009. According to the FY10 Cooperative Agreement, Executive Summary, the Sitka Tribe has completed the lead cable removal project with assistance received from the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP).

The 2010 site visit reports (Chilkat Environmental, 2010) documented potential environmental concerns to determine future actions. Abalone Island was inspected and the suspected underground storage tank locations were determined to be sawn off fence posts set in concrete.



and no indication of petroleum or other contaminants were observed on the island. No electrical equipment or other environmental concerns were observed. The two drums that were observed were rusted away with no sign of product or historic leaking. The utility building was collapsed and sampled for potential asbestos, results indicated no asbestos present in the sample. Clam Island was also inspected and a previously reported seep could not be located. No stained soil, stressed vegetation or indication of standing or flowing water was observed.

Abalone Island demolition activities consisted of:

- accessing the site via trail blazing and installation of a zip-line
- asbestos sampling of WWII shed, lab results confirmed lack of asbestos
- demolition of a shed and miscellaneous debris removal
- transportation of debris via boat to Sitka

Clam Island remediation consisted of:

- removal of loose debris
- cutting off the bunker ladder
- removal of an electrical box
- removal of steel cable along the shore

A total of 8,225 pounds of debris were removed from Clam and Abalone Island and properly disposed at Stagier Sanitation in Sitka, Alaska. No fuel spills were identified during the remedial activities. According to the report conclusions, both Clam and Abalone Island are considered clean.

#### **4.0 SUMMARY OF REMEDY**

The March 2014 report concluded that both Clam and Abalone Islands are considered clean. No toxins or hazards remain at either site. The concrete bunkers that remain should not pose any hazards to Tribal Citizens while practice subsistence in the areas.

#### **5.0 REFERENCES**

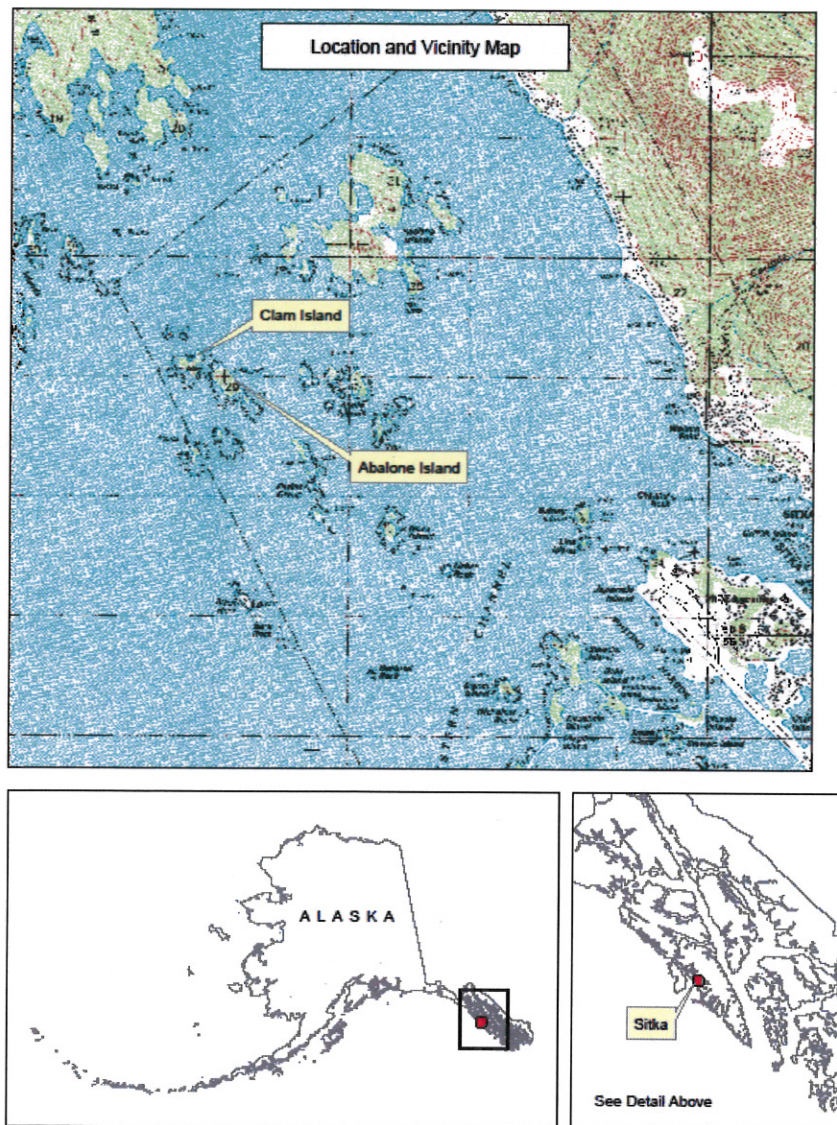
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Sitka Tribe of Alaska, 2010. Site Visit Report for Abalone Island Radar Facility Near Sitka Alaska, Prepared by Chilkat Environmental. December.

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Sitka Tribe of Alaska, 2014. Site Remediation Report, Clam and Abalone Island Remediation. March





**FIGURE 1 - LOCATION AND VICINITY MAP**