



**PROPOSED PLAN  
FOR SITE ST018  
(ALSO KNOWN AS ST-018, AOC-08,  
AND AOC08)  
COMPOSITE BUILDING SEPTIC TANK  
AND OUTFALL  
NIKOLSKI RADIO RELAY STATION**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The United States Air Force (USAF) has issued this Proposed Plan for the Composite Building Septic Tank and Outfall site (designated as ST018) located at Nikolski Radio Relay Station (Nikolski RRS), Alaska. The purpose of the Proposed Plan is to inform and solicit public review of and comment on the Proposed Action, and indicate how the public can be involved in the decision process.

The USAF is the lead agency and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) is the support agency for this site. As the lead agency, USAF responsibilities include, but are not limited to, preparation of this Proposed Plan, coordination with the support agency, submission of a draft version of the Proposed Plan for review and comment by the support agency, and consideration of support agency comments. The ADEC typically reviews USAF activities to ensure that work is performed in accordance with State of Alaska environmental conservation laws and regulations. ADEC has commented on a draft version of this Proposed Plan. ADEC's comments and the USAF responses are provided as Attachment 1. The US Environmental Protection Agency has not provided comments on the recent studies.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Your comments on this Proposed Plan are invited during the public comment period that begins March 22, 2007 and ends April 18, 2007. A public meeting where comments may also be received is scheduled for 4:00 p.m., April 6, 2007 at the IRA Council Office at the village of Nikolski.**

**Please direct written comments to:**

**Mr. Scott Tarbox  
Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. Air Force  
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**For more information, see the Information Repository at the Nikolski IRA Council Office in the village of Nikolski:**

**Nikolski IRA Council  
P.O. Box 105  
Nikolski, AK 99638  
(907) 576-2225**



# **PROPOSED PLAN FOR SITE ST018 (ALSO KNOWN AS ST-018, AOC-08, AND AOC08) COMPOSITE BUILDING SEPTIC TANK AND OUTFALL NIKOLSKI RADIO RELAY STATION**

This Proposed Plan has been issued by the USAF acting under the authority granted by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (Chapter 42 United States Code Section 9601). It is presented as part of the USAF's responsibilities under Chapter 40 Code of Federal Regulation Section 300.430 (40 CFR 300.430).

The Nikolski RRS is located on Umnak Island in the Aleutian Island chain (Figure 1). The village of Nikolski is located toward the southwest end of Umnak Island. The Nikolski RRS facility boundary begins about 1/4 mile north of the village (Figure 2). The main radio relay facility is located about 1.7 air miles from the village. ST018 is located on the top of High Hill near the former Composite Building.

This Proposed Plan provides basic site background information, identifies the Proposed Action for the site, and provides the rationale behind the selection of the Proposed Action.

This Proposed Plan summarizes information that can be found in more detail in the *Final Remedial Investigation of Nikolski Radio Relay Station, February 2002*.

The USAF will make the final CERCLA decision for the site after reviewing and considering all information submitted during the 30-day public comment period. The USAF encourages public participation in this process. Comments

received on any portion of the process will be considered, documented for the record, and responded to by the USAF in a Responsiveness Summary, which will then become part of the final CERCLA Record of Decision (ROD) for ST018. This decision can change in response to public comment or new information.

## **SITE BACKGROUND**

The Nikolski RRS provided communications for the Distant Early Warning (DEW)-Line stations between 1961 and 1977. The site consisted of an airfield; fuel storage and distribution facilities; and several facilities where the radio installations were located (Figure 2). In 1988, many of the Nikolski RRS buildings and structures were demolished, including the aboveground structures on High Hill.

In 1994, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 reviewed the Preliminary Assessment Report for the Nikolski RRS site using EPA's Hazard Ranking System and concluded that the Nikolski RRS did not warrant inclusion on the Superfund National Priority List and issued a recommendation of No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP).

ST018 is the designation for the environmental site associated with the Composite Building Septic Tank and Outfall (Figure 3). The septic tank is located on High Hill approximately 120 feet north-northwest of the former



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Composite Building. The discharge pipe for the septic tank is located directly above a 450-foot cliff.

Environmental investigations and studies were conducted for ST018 in 2000 and 2001. Soil samples collected during these studies were analyzed for a variety of chemicals, including gasoline-range organic compounds (GRO), diesel-range organic compounds (DRO), residual-range organic compounds (RRO), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and metals.

There have been no enforcement activities associated with ST018.

In 2001, 2002 and 2004, fact sheets were distributed to the Nikolski community, the tribal government, and the Chaluka Corporation to summarize the results of the investigations, discuss the decision-making process, and to inform the village residents of ways they could participate. In 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006, meetings were held to encourage the community to participate in the cleanup process and to discuss issues pertaining to the Nikolski RRS.

## **SITE CHARACTERISTICS**

ST018 is located on High Hill. The geologic materials at the site consist of volcanic rubble and silty gravel overlying andesite bedrock.

Currently the site is undeveloped and is anticipated to remain undeveloped in the future. Current and future land use is expected to be recreational, but is unrestricted.

Analysis of soil samples collected in 2000 and 2001 did not detect contamination at concentrations that warranted further investigation. No contaminants were detected at concentrations that exceed applicable cleanup levels.

## **SCOPE AND ROLE OF RESPONSE ACTION**

ST018 is one of 13 sites located at the former Nikolski RRS. This Proposed Plan addresses ST018 only. The overall restoration objective at the former Nikolski RRS is to protect human health and welfare and the environment.

## **PROPOSED ACTION**

The site poses no unacceptable risk under current and reasonably anticipated future recreational use, or unrestricted use. Therefore, no action is required to remediate contamination at the site. The site is suitable for unrestricted use and the USAF proposes no remedial action. This proposal may change based upon new information.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The USAF encourages the public to gain a more comprehensive understanding of

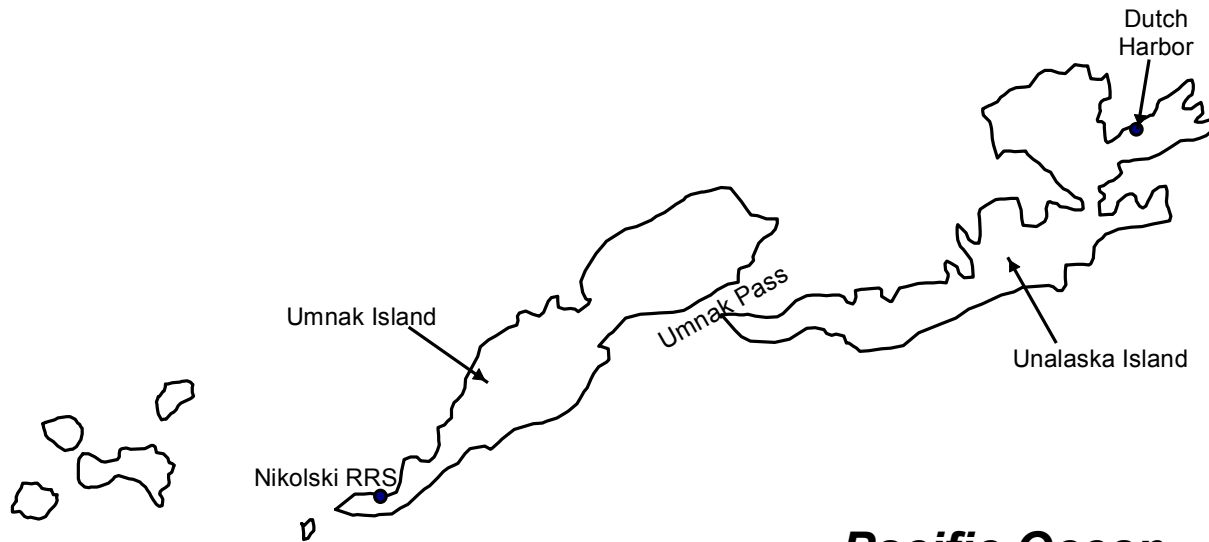


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the site and the environmental activities that have been conducted at the site. The USAF provides site information to the public through public meetings, the Administrative Record file for the site, and announcements. For further information, contact Mr. Scott Tarbox, USAF Remedial Project Manager at the address and phone number listed on the front page of this Proposed Plan.



**Bering Sea**



**Pacific Ocean**

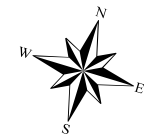
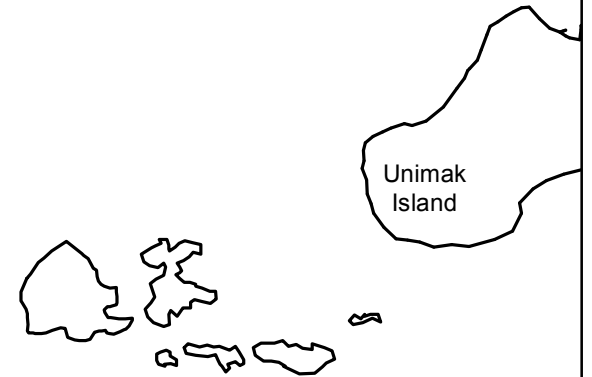


Figure 1 - Nikolski RRS Location Map

Proposed Plan for ST018  
 (also known as ST-018,  
 AOC-08, and AOC08)  
 Composite Building  
 Septic Tank and Outfall

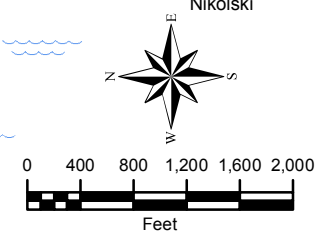
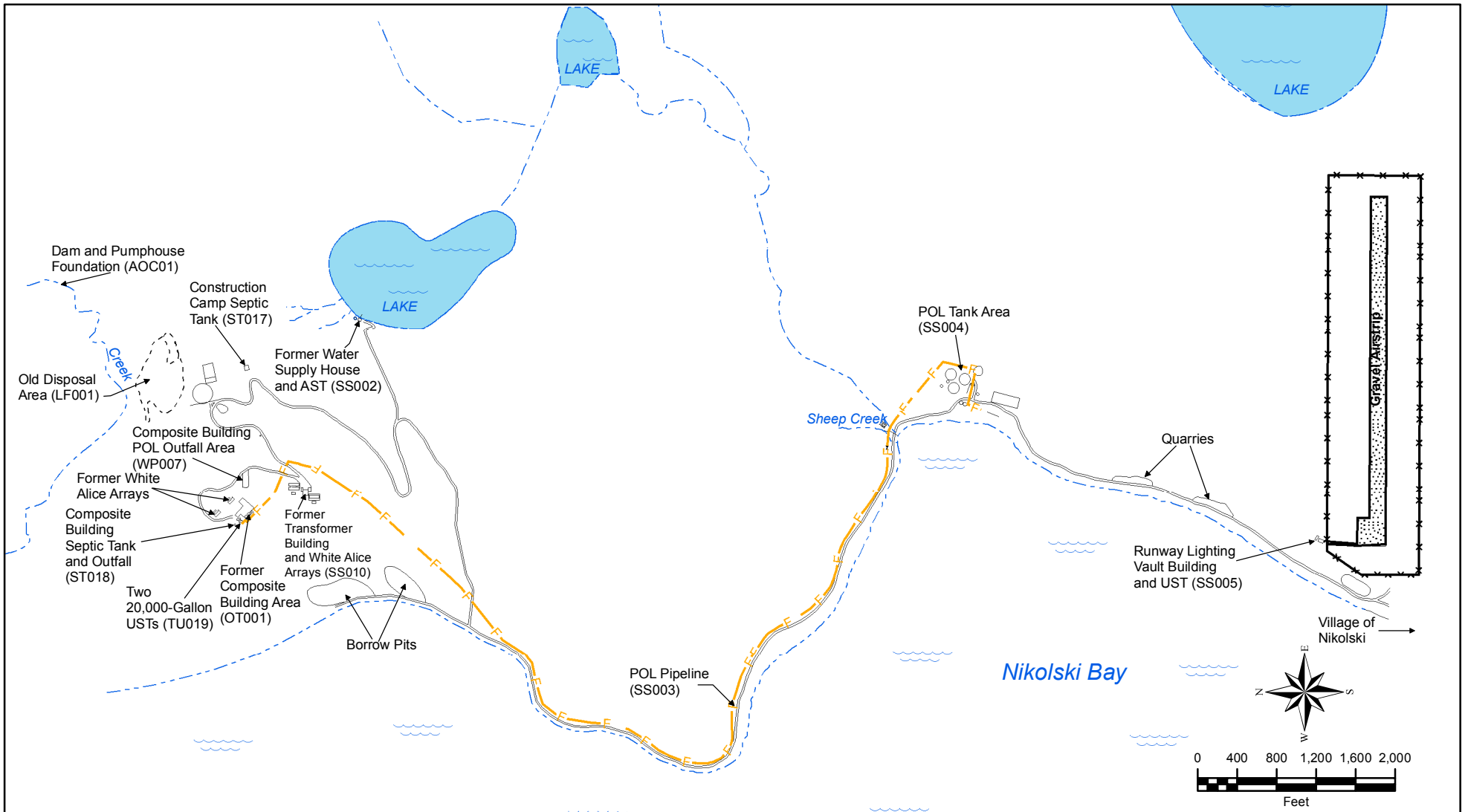
Nikolski Radio Relay Station  
 Nikolski, Alaska



United States Air Force

Revision 1

June 2006



**Explanation**

- Road
- Aboveground Tank
- ×-×-× Fence
- E—E POL Pipeline
- - - Shoreline
- LAKE Lakes

Figure 2 - Nikolski RRS Facility Map

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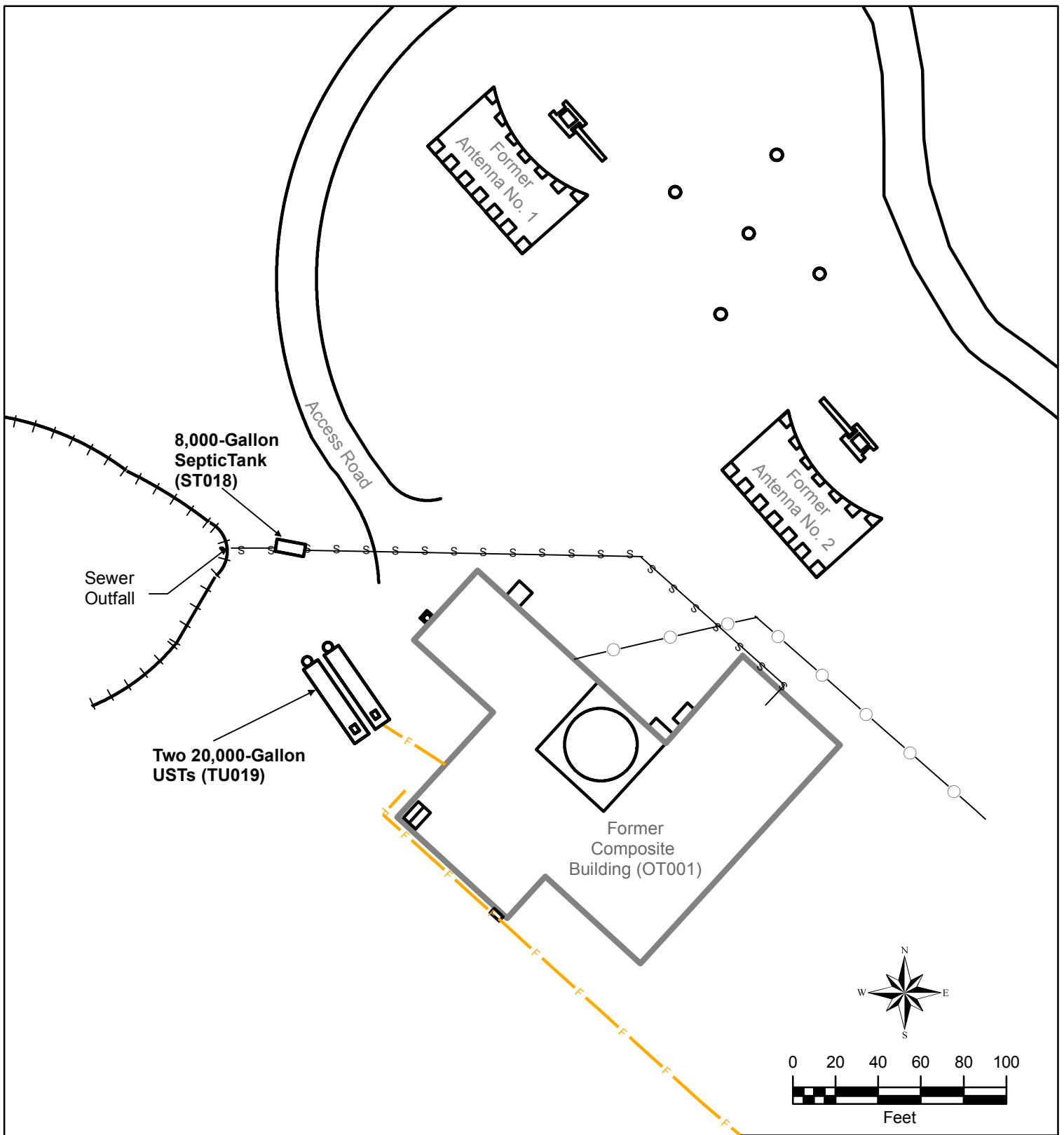
Nikolski Radio Relay Station  
 Nikolski, Alaska



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**Explanation**

- POL Outfall Pipe
- F— POL Pipeline
- S—S— Sewer Line
- └└└└└ Top of Cliff
- Antenna Post (Cut-Off)

Figure 3 - ST018 Site Map

Proposed Plan for ST018  
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ATTACHMENT 1

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMENTS  
ON THE DRAFT PROPOSED PLAN  
AND U.S. AIR FORCE RESPONSES



**ADEC Comment:** *All of the draft Proposed Plans state the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has not provided comment on the recent studies or the Proposed Plan and also include a section indicating that the EPA issued a No Further Remedial Action Planned determination in 1994. DEC is unaware of the submittal of any documents to EPA for review since the NFRAP decision was issued. Please revise as necessary to be consistent with actions.*

**USAF Response:** The statement in the Proposed Plan is correct in that EPA has not provided comments on any of the recent reports. Reference to EPA review of, or comment on, the Proposed Plans will be removed. Copies of the Final Remedial Investigation Report (February 2002), Supplemental Remedial Investigation for Sites AOC-07 and SS-004 (October 2002), Final Feasibility Study (March 2003), and the Baseline Risk Assessment (June 2004), were provided to the EPA in accordance with 10 USC 2705, on 31 May 2006. At the same time, a copy of the ADEC letter dated August 6, 2004, indicating the ADEC has reviewed and concurs with the findings of the Baseline Risk Assessment, was provided to the EPA. No comments have been provided by the EPA. In addition, EPA has previously stated to the USAF and BEM Systems, Inc., that it has no interest in reviewing information for the remote sites for which it has already issued a NFRAP, including Nikolski RRS.

**ADEC Comment:** *DEC does not concur with a finding that no action is required to remediate contamination at this site. The septic tank poses a substantial threat of discharge of CERCLA regulated substances. The Remedial Investigation found that the tank contained TCE at 0.167 mg/l and cis-1,2 dichlorethylene at 2.69 mg/l. The feasibility study recommended the presumptive remedy of granulated activated carbon filtration for treatment of the wastewater. Hazardous substances in the tank need to be treated or disposed of properly.*

**USAF Response:** The USAF will close the septic tank in-place, and remove and properly dispose of tank contents. This will occur during the 2007 field event. Therefore, ADEC's substantive concerns will be addressed.

**ADEC Comment:** *In the section Site Characteristics it states that current and future land use is unrestricted and in the Proposed Action Section it refers to current and reasonably anticipated land use being recreational. Please resolve the discrepancy.*

**USAF Response** Current and reasonably anticipate future use of the site is recreational. However, the site is suitable for unrestricted use because no contaminants occur at concentrations that exceed cleanup levels shown in 18 AAC 75.



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State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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