

FACT SHEET

APVR-DE-PSE/Env Res Br
Paul Steucke Jr./863-3295
13 Nov 89

1. SUBJECT: Poleline Road Chemical Disposal Area
2. BACKGROUND: Records on past (before the mid-1970s) landfills or "dumps" are poor with usually no documentation of material deposited into them. A dump site location, an acknowledgement that such a site existed and was properly closed, or something similar is usually the best file information available. It is unlikely that any more information on the Poleline Road Chemical Dump site will be uncovered in the files.
3. FACTS BEARING ON THE SUBJECT:
 - a. Facts. In late September of 1989, Anchorage Mayor Tom Fink informed MG Fields, Commanding General of the 6th Inf Div (L) and U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska, of an Anchorage citizen who was stationed on Fort Richardson in the 1950s and remembered chemicals being buried in an area close to Eagle River Flats Impact Area (ERFIA). The Mayor indicated this might be connected to the Eagle River Flats Waterfowl Mortality (ERFWM) problem under Army investigation in the ERFIA. This project will be handled separately from the ERFWM project unless/until a link between the two is found because it is likely that they are unrelated (they are separated by about five kilometers).
 - b. Action Taken. The informant spent an afternoon with 6th Inf Div (L) Directorate of Engineering and Housing (DEH) personnel locating a primary and alternate site on a map. This was followed by site visits to confirm the possible dump locations. From this information, DEH has coordinated with EOD and the 6th Engineers to perform an electromagnetic sweep of the areas to determine what, if anything, was buried there. Concurrent with this action, an investigation of the map archives at the Corps of Engineers revealed a 1954 map showing a chemical disposal area at the same spot as the primary location identified by the informant. The map says "Chemical Disposal Area" in the middle of a full circle. On the radius line leading from the label to the circle are the words "2400 radius contamination zone" (see attached map). Aerial photography from a 1957 overflight showing visible trenches corroborates this dump location. Based on this data, the alternate site has been dropped from the investigation. While preparations for the electromagnetic sweep are proceeding, the 6th Inf Div (L) has issued a request through WESTCOM to USATHAMA asking USATHAMA assistance in investigating the Poleline Road Chemical Disposal Site.

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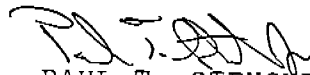
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c. Action Required. Continue investigation efforts and have the 23rd Engineers perform the initial electromagnetic sweep, and have EOD perform a follow-up sweep as soon as possible. Encourage USATHAMA to perform an investigation of this site and establish it as a project under the Installation Restoration Program (IRP).

4. REFERENCES.

a. AR 200-1, 15 June 1982, Environmental Quality, Environmental Protection and Enhancement.

b. Memorandum, DEH, APVR-DE-PS, 13 Nov 89, subject: Chemical Disposal Area (request for USATHAMA assistance).



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