

## FACT SHEET

APVR-DE-PSE/Env Res Br  
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5 November 1990

1. SUBJECT: Poleline Road Chemical Disposal Area.
2. BACKGROUND: 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.
3. FACTS BEARING ON THE SUBJECT: The soldier spent an afternoon with 6th Inf Div (L) Directorate of Engineering and Housing (DEH) personnel locating two possible sites on a map. This was followed by site visits to confirm the possible dump locations. 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 one location identified by the informant. The map shows a "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-foot radius contamination zone." Aerial photography from a 1957 overflight showing visible trenches corroborates this dump location. Based on this data, the second site has been dropped from the investigation. A second soldier that was stationed at Fort Richardson during the late 1940s came forward and confirmed the site.
4. ACTION TAKEN:
  - a. The U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency (USATHAMA) contracted ESE to conduct a preliminary assessment of the site. In early June, an electromagnetic survey was conducted to identify potential metal objects (i.e., drums, tanks, cans) that could have been buried. The survey determined three distinct anomalies in close proximity to where drums were thought to be buried.
  - b. In August 1990, five wells and ten soil borings were installed to determine if soil there is contaminated. Preliminary results show possible contamination by solvents and heavy metals. No surety compounds have been detected. The final report is expected in December of 1990.
5. ACTION REQUIRED: We have identified a funding requirement of \$400,000 to investigate and dig trenches where anomalies were detected. We have been informed by the most current DA work plan, and verbally from USATHAMA, that this project is unfunded for FY 91. If funds are not forthcoming, the investigation at this site will come to a standstill without any definite conclusion. As a minimum, \$100,000 needs to be provided to sample and analyze results from the monitoring wells that are located at this site.

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6. REFERENCES:

a. AR 200-1, 15 Jun 82, Environmental Quality, Environmental Protection and Enhancement.

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

  
RUFF