

RAPID RESPONSE WEEKLY REPORT

POLELINE ROAD DISPOSAL SITE
FORT RICHARDSON, ALASKA

CONTRACT # DACW-45-89-D-9516

DELIVERY ORDER #70

REPORT NO. 001 FOR WEEK ENDING October 3, 1993

Reporting period: 9/23/93 to 10/3/93
Percent Field Work Completed: 20% Percent Project Completed: 20%

Project Work Force on Site - 5 Percent of Work Force Alaska Hire - 60 %

SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON SITE

- a. Mobilization to Anchorage was completed on September 23rd. Preconstruction meetings were conducted on September 24th. Setup of the laboratory equipment began on September 24th.
- b. Laboratory setup continued on September 25th and 26th.
- c. On Monday and Tuesday (27th and 28th) equipment was delivered to the field site by vendors, electrical power was connected to portable generator, and contamination control zones were established. Also on the morning of the 28th a site orientation was conducted at the project site and was attended by all direct participants.
- d. On Wednesday 29 September excavation of the North end of Trench A, the trench closest to hill 385 was commenced. The day's excavation was unremarkable and was as expected. Large amounts of scrap metal from rusted drums and pails were encountered but no full or closed containers were encountered. Approximately 20 tons, or 1 stockpile of soil was generated and screened to separate rocks >2 inches in diameter. Large quantities of World War Era type respirator cartridges were discovered. and stockpiled. There were no odors noticed in the work and Portable monitoring equipment indicated organic vapors of 3-5 PPM.
- e. On Thursday excavation of Trench A continued. Similar metal scrap and respirator cartridges were found and segregated. Approximately 60 additional yards of soil was stockpiled after screening and covered. Portable air monitoring was conducted and 3-5 PPM organic vapor levels were recorded.

f. On Friday as excavation progressed in Trench A, at about 0930 , 7-8 metal gas cylinders were discovered in the South end of the trench. The cylinders were about 5 feet long and 1 foot in diameter. They were carefully removed and placed near the access road for further inspection. EOD was notified to come to the site to verify that the cylinders were not explosive in nature.

At about 1130 , EOD arrived at the site and inspected the cylinders. The determination was made that they were old oxygen and acetylene cylinders. At about the same time the excavator operator had discovered small amber glass jars in the south end of Trench A. Twenty of the jars were placed into a 5 gallon bucket and moved to the edge of the exclusion area for inspection by EOD. The jars were empty, had no lids, and had legible print on the outside "HD - TOXIC GAS - SET M1"

EOD identified the bottles as Mustard Gas Test Kit items and informed us that the chance of discovering Mustard Gas agents at the site had now escalated.

OHM also had found this A.M., a partially deteriorated Tech Manual from a test kit which discussed Mustard Gas and other Chemical Warfare agents. Upon review of the document EOD informed us that we should be looking for a "PIG" apparatus which was illustrated in the manual which might contain ampules of several different kinds of chemical warfare agents.

It was also discussed and agreed that OHM would discontinue excavation in Trench A due to the finding of the glass jars and proceed with Trench B.

OHM conducted a short indoctrination at that time with the all personnel on site and briefed the crew to be expecting items of this type. The level of protection was also upgraded to include an outer PVC Rainsuit.

At about 1430 hours, two "PIGS" were found in the North end of Trench B. Work was stopped immediately and EOD was informed. All OHM personnel left the site with the exception of the Site Supervisor and Safety Officer.

For the remainder of the day OHM met with the Army to determine the future course of action.

On Saturday 10/2/93, the Army sampled the "PIGS" for vapor release and moved both the containers to an on base secure bunker.

SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED OFF SITE

none

EXPLANATION OF DEVIATION FROM WORK PLAN

Activities related to the original scope of work involving organic solvent contamination removal have been discontinued pending further direction.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

see discussion above

RECOMMENDATIONS**KEY PERSONNEL CHANGES**

All personnel remain on site except for Field Chemist II who was released on Friday 10/1

WORK ANTICIPATED TO BE PERFORMED NEXT WEEK

Course of action is yet to be determined by Army. Alternatives are ; a.) continue removal, or b) Backfill the excavation with removed soils, cap the site and decontaminate equipment.

OHM may be asked to continue excavation. If so EOD will be onsite full timeto remove and package any items which may be encountered which appear to be chemical warfare or explosive in nature. Protective clothing and health and safety procedures will be modified to offer protection against the hazards potentially present.

OHM will provide an on site Certified Industrial Hygienist to develop an amendment to the H&S Plan to cover the new scope of work.

OTHER COMMENTS

OHM has moved the support zone for the project site back to Pole line Road in anticipation of further work.



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