

RAPID RESPONSE WEEKLY REPORT

Project Name - Poleline Road Disposal Area Week ending - 8-13-94

Project Location - Fort Richardson, Alaska Report No. - 004

Prepared by - OHM Remediation Services Inc. Reporting Period 8-9-94 thru 8-13-94

Percent Field Work Completed - 40 % Percent Project Completed - 30 %

Summary of Work Completed On Site -

1. Monday the 8th was a travel day for personnel returning from weekend off.
2. Began excavation on the 9th in Zone 6 of Area 3 proceeding in a North west direction.
3. On the 9th a White Phosphorous (WP) Smoke Grenade was found. EOD was summoned to the site and detonated the Smoke Grenade up Barrs Blvd. in the designated detonation area.
4. On the 10th 2 pigs were found in Zone 6. EOD was summoned to the site with a portable X-Ray machine to X-Ray the pigs to see if they were full or empty. One had noticable contents and the other appeared to be empty. Tech Escort transported the one that appeared to have contents to the bunker at the end of the work day. Later in the week, OHM and Tech Escort opened the one that appeared to be empty and verified that it was in fact empty.
 Also on the 10th a small cylinder was discovered about 12 inches long x 2 inches in diameter. EOD X-rayed the cylinder and there were no visible contents. The type of cylinder and contents are yet unknown. The cylinder was placed in the cylinder storage area with other cylinders from last year.
5. On Thursday the 11th, excavation moved into Zone 7, and an amber bottle approximately 8 inches high by 4 inches in diameter was discovered. It contained approximately 2 inches of unknown clear liquid and it's small mouth lid was intact and sealed. Tech Escort packaged the jar in a metal can with vermiculite and it is stored under the decon trailer in a locked container.
 Also on this date back in Zone 6, (as Zone 6 and Zone 7 are being excavated simultaneously) we began to uncover several drums which are partially full of a black, tarry material. Based on information recieved from EOD, we now believe that the material is probably "Molasses Residium"(MR), which is a "thick syrupy residue obtained in the manufacture of ethyl alcohol from molasses to which 1.5% aerosol has been added in order to stabilize the material". The material was then diluted with water to make a 25% solution which is used in engineering tests of airplane spray tanks and thin gas bombs and chemical land mines as the material has a viscosity and surface tension sufficiently close to that of mustard to insure comparable flow characteristics.
 The document provided by EOD which was from the Huntsville Arsenal, and dated 24 Feb 1947 goes on to say that "The material will have to be disposed of by either burying or burning, as the aerosol used for stabilization does not make the material fit for stock food". OHM has not determined what this "aerosol" may be.

6. On Friday the 12th we backtracked to Zone 3, as it was discovered during the verification sampling in that area that we had missed part of the south side of the circumference. The area was excavated, locating only one flattened drum.

Also continuing then in Zone 6 we began to unearth many of the Molasses Residium drums and other drums which were empty. Several of the drums were heavy in construction and had "I" Beam type chins which are steel rings around the outside. EOD and Tech Escort pointed out that this type drum was used to contain CWM. All the drums of this type had been punctured on top with a pick or other pointed device and were burned. None of this type drum had any contents, nor did have any positive hits with the Minicam when they were tested. The large anomaly concentration in Zone 6 turned out to be this deposit of drums.

On this date we began to excavate large amounts of wood pieces from the Decontaminating Agent boxes. It soon became necessary to place 3 men behind the excavator in Level B to segregate and sort thru the debris due to the large amount of wood which we were finding. During the 12th and the 13th we unearthed and handpicked out approximately 10 yards of wood alone, not to mention metal drums.

7. On Saturday the 13th we continued excavation in Zones 6 and 7. Continued to uncover drums, wood, and debris. Also on this date we located approximately 20 yards of a white unknown soft, pasty material. The material was in clumps and also in hundreds of small cans. The material expands in the cans from contact with moisture in the ground when the cans rust through. It is believed that the white material may be lime or the bleach part of the decon solution kit.

Also today we found an intact case of HC Smoke which is Hexachloroethane Smoke. EOD was summoned to the site and detonated the entire case along with some other smaller HC Smoke pieces that we identified.

As the day concluded on Saturday we began to uncover several small vials with lids intact containing a clear liquid. Tech Escort discovered that the labels on some of them were in good condition and stated that the vials contained an eye decon solution which is non-hazardous. Nonetheless the this finding slows down the excavation considerably, as the crews sort thru each bucket full meticulously.

Summary of Work Completed Off Site -

At the writing of this report Battelle has completed 9 soil stockpile analysis for CWM and Breakdown products with all negative results.

5 more results should be ready by 8-16.

Columbia Analytical is analyzing the verification samples from the excavation in the locations from which the Stockpiles 1-9 were removed. These volatile analyses should be ready back 8-15.

Explanation of Deviation from Work Plan -

NONE

Problems Encountered -

1. On Friday 8-12, during a regular work break, a WP smoke grenade ignited itself in the rockpile on the discharge end of the shaker screen. The Fire Department was summoned to the site, and all personnel were moved back to the break trailer until management could determine the source and possible cause of the smoke. One of the dump trucks on site was close to the pile and was moved immediately to preclude engulfment if the "fire" should continue. The grenade quickly burned out and Gil Jones, Larry Hudson, and OHM's " UXO Technician inspected the area. It was decided that the smoke grenade, which had gotten through the segregation and screening process, had become punctured by a rock, which exposed the White Phosphorous to the air. This exposure and resultant heat finally heated up the "burster" which popped about 5 minutes into the incident and the pop caused the grenade to be ejected from the pile about 10 feet where it landed on the ground and continued to burn itself out. After initial inspection, the excavator was used to spread apart the rock pile and react the remaining smoldering White Phosphorous which was down in the rocks and on the soil. The reaction was completed and the crew returned from break and continued work as normal.

2. During the event described, there was considerable confusion caused by several persons giving direction, and it was somewhat unclear as to exactly who was in charge at the site.

Recommendations -

1. Although all parties recognize that it is physically impossible to guarantee that items such as the small smoke grenade will not get thru the segregation/screening process, the crew has been briefed on this event and instructed to go back to using the rakes for the original inspection of the excavated soil as was originally intended.

2. The crew and all site personnel have been briefed the following A.M. at the Safety meeting that if Larry Hudson happens to be at the site, as was the case for this incident, that he will take charge in directing initial response and determination of the problem and course of corrective action. If Larry is not at the site, John Goins, the Site Supervisor will be in charge. No other person or persons should give direction other than to gather personnel at the break trailer.

Key Personnel Changes -

NONE

Work Anticipated to be Performed Next Week -

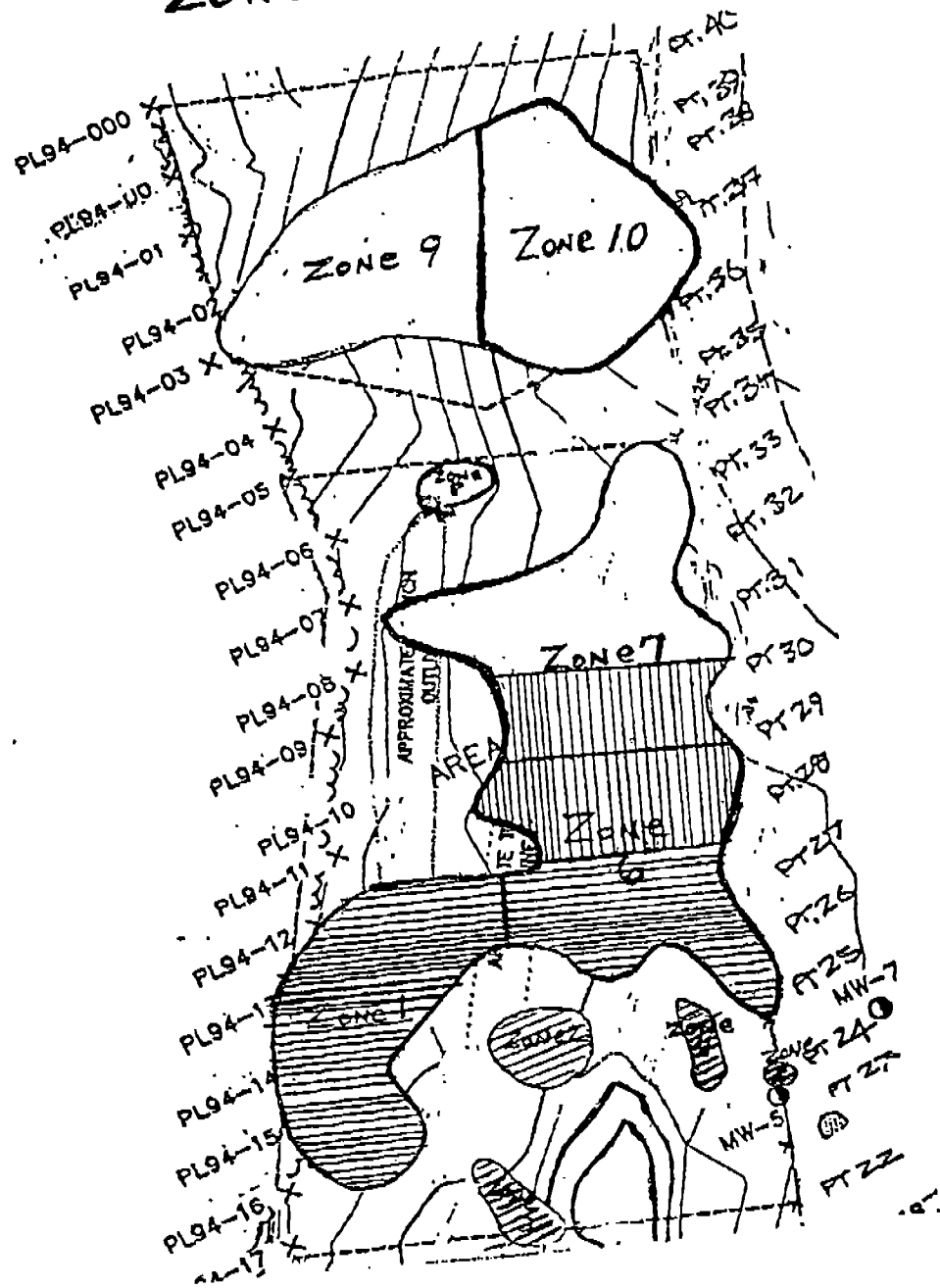
1. Monday and Tuesday the 15th and 16th will be spent moving the Decon Tent, Decon Trailer, and Break Trailer farther to the west up Barrs Blvd. No excavation will take place during these two days and the Fire Department and the Medics have been released until 0630 on the 17th, at which time we expect to recommence excavation.


2. We expect to continue excavation in Zone 7 on Wednesday. Due to the large amount of small vials and debris being unearthed in Zone 7, we are unsure how long it will take to finish Zone 7.


3. We will move into the small Zone 8 and on to Zone 9 as soon as Zone 7 is completed.

Poleline KOHL Zone Delineation

8-15-94



Week 3 Progress To Date 

Week 4 Progress 

Other Remarks -

NONE

1.
Submitted



Larry Hudson
Project Manager
OHM Remediation Services

Approved



Steve Dawson
Construction Representative
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
