DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
PACIFIC AIR FORCES

5 June 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR 3 CES/CEANR

FROM: 3 AMDS/SGPB

SUBJECT: SS22 Remedial Investigation through Feasibility Study Review

1. Bioenvironmental Engineering (BE) evaluated the work plan for the remedial investigation/feasibility study of SS22 (former DRMO storage yard), Area 1, Elmendorf AFB, AK. BE acts as the installation Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) in accordance with AFI 40-201, *Managing Radioactive Materials in the US Air Force*, and is responsible for managing the base radiation safety program. BE is working in coordination with the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine Health Physics Consulting (USAFSAM/OEHRH) for technical assistance, and the USAF Radioisotope Committee (RIC).

2. In August 2007, BE validated contractor findings of radiation above background levels in four locations on site. Soil analysis by USAFSAM/OEHRH confirmed that Radium-226 is present. Radium waste on Air Force installations is commonly a result of disposed radium-painted dials and gauges from aircraft and vehicles, which exhibit low levels of radioactivity. At that time the RIC approved continuation of remedial investigation in the unaffected areas. All radiation levels detected are well below applicable limits. Further investigation is needed in order to characterize the radiation source. Radiation exposures to personnel on and near the SS22 site are not expected to exceed the public dose limit of 100 mrem per year. Additionally, the contractor's work plan implements all necessary controls to mitigate risk of personnel exposure and spread of contamination. Controls include restricted access to the work site, on-site monitoring by a health physicist, decontamination of personnel and equipment, and oversight by the RSO. If at any point the radiation levels exceed 0.5 mR per hour, workers will exit the area and notify the appropriate agencies.

3. Upon review of the work plan and after consulting with USAFSAM/OEHRH, BE approves the initiation of field work at SS22 to further characterize the source of radioactive contamination, among other remediation investigation activities. BE's health risk assessment concluded that there is no current hazard to personnel and all precautionary controls will be in place. Questions regarding this information may be directed to me at 552-3893 or MSgt Kim at 552-3885.

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Bioenvironmental Engineer

cc: USAFSAM/OEHRH