

In-Active Installation Section

0 9 1999

Mr. John Halverson
Alaska Department of Environmental
Conservation
Division of Spill Prevention
& Response
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Halverson:

For your information and files I am forwarding a signed copy of the letter sent to private landowner Linda Behnken regarding the Defense Environmental Restoration Program-Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) property and project eligibility of Whale Island, Alaska.

Whale Island was part of the Galankin Island Defense Site (DERP-FUDS Property #F10AK0440), and therefore does not require a separate Inventory Project Report (INPR).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (907) 753-5656.



Sincerely,



Heather D. Gillihan
Engineering Manager

Enclosure

CONCUR:
Rowe 

 
Gillihan/ebe/x5656/Heather/LettertoDEC (Whale Island)
2 April 1999



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ALASKA
P.O. BOX 898
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99506-0898

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Environmental Restoration Program

APRIL 02 1999

Ms. Linda Behnken
403 Lincoln Street, Suite 237
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Dear Ms. Behnken

This letter is to inform you of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program - Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) eligibility of your property, located on Whale Island, Alaska.

Whale Island was part of the Galankin Island Defense Site, which was established during World War II as part of the military defense of Fort Ray and the Naval Air Station at Sitka, Alaska. Improvements on Whale Island included two 90mm anti-motor torpedo boat (AMTB) gun emplacements, a powerhouse, mess hall, barracks, a storehouse, and a fuel tank.

Enclosed is a "Findings and Determination of Eligibility" (FDE) signed by Brigadier General Pat M. Stevens IV on April 4, 1989. The FDE indicates that although Whale Island is an eligible DERP-FUDS property, there are no projects eligible for environmental restoration.

Alaska District Corps of Engineers personnel conducted a preliminary assessment of Whale Island on July 23, 1998. All of the major facilities and suspected areas of contamination on the island were located and inspected. Chemical analysis results from a soil sample taken at the location of the former fuel tank indicated that no significant contamination exists. The debris remaining on Whale Island does not meet the criteria of "unsafe" as defined by FUDS guidance, and is therefore not eligible for DERP-FUDS restoration. Debris located on private property is also excluded from FUDS restoration.

Based on the results of the 1998 site inspection, the preliminary assessment team concurs with the original 1989 Findings and Determination of Eligibility. Therefore, no further FUDS action is anticipated for Whale Island.

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If you have any questions regarding the determination of property or project eligibility for Whale Island, please contact Heather Gillihan at (907) 753-5656.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob Chivvis".

Robert W. Chivvis, P.E.
Program Manager

Enclosure

Environmental Restoration Program

Mr. Chris Rowe
Central Council
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Andrew P. Hope Building
320 West Willoughby Avenue
Suite 300
Juneau, Alaska 99801-9983

Dear Mr. Rowe:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Alaska District (USACE) conducted a preliminary assessment of Whale Island, Alaska on July 23, 1998. Whale Island is located approximately 1.5 miles southwest of Sitka, Alaska and was part of the Galankin Island Defense Site established during World War II.

Enclosed, please find a signed copy of the letter sent to private landowner Linda Behnken, regarding the Defense Environmental Restoration Program-Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) property and project eligibility of Whale Island, Alaska.


If you have any questions or comments, please contact Heather Gillihan at (907) 753-5656.


Sincerely,

Robert W. Chivvis, P.E.
Program Manager

Enclosure

CONCUR:

Rowe 

 hcg
Gillihan/ebc/x5656/Heather/LettertoTlingit-Haida(Whale Island)
2 April 1999

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM
FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY (FDE) REPORT

GALANKIN ISLAND DEFENSE SITE
SOUTH OF SITKA, ALASKA

PROJECT NO. F10AK000440

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Galankin Island Defense Site, consisting of several islands and containing 140 acres, is located 1 mile South of Sitka, Alaska.

2. ACQUISITION

Galankin Island Defense Site was obtained for the War Department by implied transfer from the Department of the Interior. Date of entry was 26 January 1943.

3. UTILIZATION

This site was used by the U.S. Army as part of the military defense of the Naval Air Station and Fort Ray at Sitka, with proposed installation of gun batteries, searchlights, listening posts, and other harbor defenses. Extensive improvements were constructed on Kayak Island and Whale Island, including barracks, storage sheds, water towers, power plants, and lookout posts.

4. DISPOSAL

Galankin Island Defense Site, containing 140 acres, was declared excess by the Army and was disposed of as follows: 96 acres were transferred to the Department of the Interior on 2 August 1944; 44 acres were transferred to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which accepted accountability effective 7 August 1946. This site is within the boundary of the Tongass national forest, under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service, subject to patents issued for portions to the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

5. EVALUATION

The A/E contractor through correspondence with the State of Alaska, DNR, David and Georgia Shaw Holden, Howard Pendell and Pat Kehoe-Pendell, Matthew I. and Donna H. Donohoe, Jeffrey Longridge, Michael A. and Susan J. Litman, Kitty Labounty, Nina C. Piper, Cory Samia, James W. Steffen and Vern Culp, D. Gle and Myrna S. Wade, Galankin Islanders, Inc., Larry T. Edwards, John a. Wetteland, J.W. and

Louise T. Davis, John W. Williams, Judith Lugdon (Lowcock Estate) could find no evidence of hazardous/toxic waste, ordnance or unsafe debris.

DETERMINATION

Based on the foregoing Finding of Fact, the site has been determined to contain no hazardous/toxic waste, no ordnance and no unsafe debris. Therefore, I have determined that an environmental restoration project is not within the purview of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (10 USC 2701, et seq.).

4/1/89

DATE



PAT M. STEVENS IV
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding