



CAPE ROMANZOF LONG RANGE RADAR SITE

Site Summary Update – January 2002

Site Description

The Cape Romanzof Long Range Radar site covers 4,900 acres within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. It was 1 of 10 original Aircraft Control and Warning sites in the Alaska air defense system. The nearest communities, Scammon Bay (300 people) and Hooper Bay (800 people), are located 15 miles east and south respectively. The Air Force (AF) has identified 15 contaminated sites, which consist of: landfills, drum storage areas, fuel spill areas, and leaking underground storage tanks (USTs). The facility continues to be operated as a minimally attended radar site.

Threats and Contaminants

Soil is contaminated with PCBs, pesticides, diesel and other petroleum constituents. Groundwater contains diesel and other petroleum constituents. Multiple releases aboveground and below ground have occurred at the facility.

Public Health and Environmental Concerns

People may be exposed to pollutants through dermal contact or accidental ingestion of contaminated soil or water. Contaminants that have bioaccumulated in fish and other wildlife may also pose a health threat to humans.

Response Actions

- In 1985, the AF had a release of approximately 14,000 gallons from a fuel bladder being pulled across the site.

- In 1991, a release of 46,000 gallons of diesel fuel occurred from an active pipeline.
- In 1992, the US Fish & Wildlife Service released a report of its findings on an investigation at the facility. Creek sediments were contaminated with petroleum, tissue samples from dolly varden, voles, red fox contained petroleum, PCBs & DDT-related compounds.
- In 1992, US EPA conducted a preliminary site assessment at this site and determined it did not score high enough to added to the National Priorities List.
- In 1995, the AF excavated contaminated soils from 3 source areas: SS15 (spill site/USTs), SS08 (waste accumulation area), and SS14 (drum storage area). At Landfill no. 2 (LF03) a soil cover was installed as a remedial action.
- In 1997, 3 above ground biocells were constructed to remediate the petroleum contaminated soil.
- In 2000, the AF proposed to remove the 3 biocells and use them as cover on the active landfill since cleanup was not progressing as planned. Work to be done under the Clean Sweep Program in 2002.

Current Status

- An ecological assessment is being funded by the Air Force to determine if the contamination is impacting the ecosystem. Emphasis will be on subsistence foods.

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation is soliciting input from core local community members on the type of subsistence foods they eat.

- The AF established a Restoration advisory board (RAB) with the communities of Scammon Bay, Hooper Bay, Chevak and Paimuit. The RAB meets in a different community each time a meeting is held to discuss environmental issues and concerns about the DoD facility.