

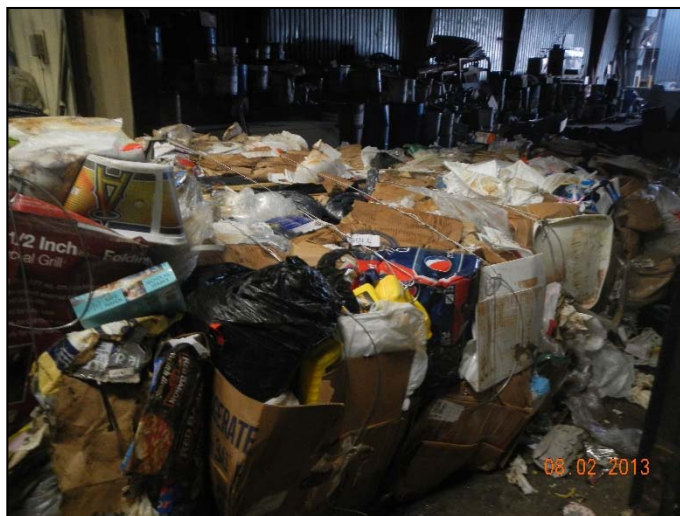
CIAP WEAR Trip Report  
Unalakleet (population 688)  
August 2, 2013 and August 15, 2014



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Solid Waste Program (Trisha Bower and Kit Persson) conducted a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), Waste Erosion Assessment and Review (WEAR) site visit for the Village of Unalakleet on August 2, 2013 and August 15, 2014. Henry Johnson-Public Works Director, Edward Jackson-Baler Operator, and Sissy Kotongan, IGAP Coordinator, helped coordinate our visits. The following narrative is a brief description of our findings during the inspections.

**WEAR Sites**

- **Baler Facility, 63.877727/-160.787943 (Active)** — The baler facility is located in a large building on the east side of the community. Local residents offload their municipal trash, and special wastes are separated out and stored for processing. The municipal waste is then processed in the baler and trucked to the landfill. This facility contains special wastes such as used oil, electronics, and lead acid batteries in addition to recyclables, and a small stockpile of municipal waste as part of normal operations. This facility is located approximately 1,530 feet from Norton Sound and approximately 66 feet from Kouwegoki Slough.





- **Landfill, 63.916257/-160.759755 (Active)** – The landfill is managed by the City of Unalakleet Public Works Department and is an engineered facility. This permitted site has been in operation since around 1991 and is consistently well-managed. It receives all of the baled municipal waste from the baler facility. Paper products are separated out and burned in the fabricated burn unit. Cover material is onsite and bales are covered multiple times a year. This facility is located high on a hillside almost 3 miles from town and is approximately 8,840 feet from Norton Sound.





- **Community Tank Farm, 63.885387/-160.774662 (Active)** – The community tank farm was completed in 2007 through a Denali Commission project and replaced multiple small tank farms throughout the community. This bulk fuel storage facility is for the City of Unalakleet, Bering Strait School District, Unalakleet Valley Electric Cooperative, Unalakleet Native Corporation, and West Coast Aviation Services. It has a total storage capacity of 1,442,000 gallons of gasoline, diesel, Jet A, and AVGAS. This facility is located across the Kouwegoki Slough, half a mile east of the community. It is approximately 400 feet from Kouwegoki Slough.



- **Air. Warning Drum Dump, 63.919995/-160.820034 (Active)** – This site is a known Contaminated Site (File ID 630.38.003). This was the location of an unpermitted landfill used by the US Air Force for disposal of drums and other debris. Removal of debris and contaminated soil was completed in the summer of 2005, although some may still remain underneath the beach road that allows access to the site and other allotments. The Army Corps of Engineers and ADEC agreed to no further excavation to avoid compromising the access road. This site is approximately 130 feet from Norton Sound. The beach road leads to the barge staging area. There are no erosion control measures in place on this section of beach. Boulders in the photo below were staged to be moved to the riprap wall installation occurring in the community itself, 3 miles south of this site.



**Photos Prior to 2005 Cleanup:**





- **Native Corporation Gas Spill, 63.87052/-160.790808 (Active)** – This site is an active Contaminated Site (File ID 630.38.007) due to approximately 30,000-40,000 gallons of gasoline leaking from an underground fuel line in 1989. This was the location of the Unalakleet Native Corporation (UNC) tank farm, which contained 9 horizontal fuel tanks. There was also a gas station located adjacent to the tank farm. Cleanup activities occurred in the 1990s recovering 4,100 gallons and 800 gallons biodegraded. This tank farm was decommissioned after the construction of the new Community Tank Farm in 2007. Only one horizontal tank remained during the 2013 visit. Monitoring wells are installed and characterization continues on this site. It is approximately 700 feet from the Unalakleet River and approximately 1350 feet from Norton Sound, which has a riprap wall installed by the Army Corps of Engineers for erosion control.





- **NALEMP Kotongan Lake AST, 63.879173/-160.789158 (Active)** – This site is an active Contaminated Site (Site ID 630.38.013) due to petroleum contamination. This was the location of a 400,000 gallon aboveground storage tank (AST) that was owned by the Unalakleet Native Corporation, but it was located on property that is owned by the City of Unalakleet. Records indicate that the AST was built by the US Air Force in 1959 and was used to store diesel fuel. Sometime around 1970 the tank was decommissioned and ownership of the area was transferred to UNC. UNC used the tank for an additional 10 years. The AST was demolished and sampling conducted in August 2013. Additional site characterization is needed before a cleanup plan can be created. This site is approximately 500 feet from Unalakleet River and approximately 1450 feet from Norton Sound, which has a riprap wall installed by the Army Corps of Engineers for erosion control.



- **Air Warning - Main Radar Site, 63.918836/-160.752790 (Active)** – This site is a known Contaminated Site (File ID 630.38.003). This was the location of the former Unalakleet Aircraft Control and Warning (AC&W) Site that was operational between 1958 and 1978 and consisted of nine buildings, six generators, two above ground storage tanks, two underground storage tanks, lead batteries, contaminated soil, and miscellaneous debris. Demolition of the site infrastructure, removal of underground storage tanks, removal of debris, and excavation and on-site treatment of contaminated soil occurred in 1993 and 1995. Additional investigations took place annually between 1999 and 2006 to locate and remove thousands of barrels spread in the Unalakleet vicinity by flooding and inappropriate disposal. Soil contamination is primarily from diesel fuel. It is located a quarter mile northeast of the Unalakleet Landfill. This site is approximately 2 miles east of Norton Sound on a hill.





- **Air Warning - Generator Hill, 63.921091/-160.753144 (Active)** – This site is a known Contaminated Site (File ID 630.38.003). Diesel contaminated soil was found associated with a day tank in the mid 1990's during building demolition. Approximately 550 cubic yards of polluted soil were excavated and treated at the former main radar installation at that time. An additional 291 cubic yards of polluted soil was removed in 2010 and sampling was conducted. ADEC visited the site in 2012 and found no evidence of contamination remains. The site has been graded, is clean and no odor or soil staining was observed. This site is approximately 2 miles from Norton Sound on a hill.



- **Aircraft Warning Site – USTs, 63.917874/-160.750565 (Active)** – This site is a known Contaminated Site (File ID 630.26.001). It is located by the Air Warning – Main Radar Site. Two underground storage tanks (USTs) were removed from the Unalakleet Aircraft Warning Site in 1995: a 10,000 gallon diesel tank and a 5,000 gallon gasoline tank. Site characterization after removal found contamination above cleanup levels remaining for the diesel UST at 10 - 13 feet below ground surface. No contamination was documented above cleanup levels for the gasoline UST after further excavation. This site is approximately 2 miles from Norton Sound on a hill.





- **Air Warning – Communications Bldg, 63.923634/-160.809005 (Active)** – This site is a known Contaminated Site (File ID 630.38.003). The Communications Building, also referred to as the "TACAN Site", was demolished in the middle 1990s, at which time petroleum contamination was found in association with a diesel underground storage tank and a generator. Over 4,000 cubic yards of polluted soil was excavated and treated at the former main radar installation. After excavating an additional 800 cubic yards of contaminated soil in 2005 for off-site disposal, the site was restored to original grade in 2005 and 2006. Soil contamination was primarily weathered petroleum. Contamination extended down to the saturated zone, which is highly variable due to the close proximity to Norton Sound and Kouwegok Slough. Contamination remains at the groundwater interface. The Corps and ADEC agreed to no further excavation of contaminated soil due to reaching groundwater and to avoid disturbing adjacent wetlands. This site is located behind locked runway fencing, but it can be seen from the beach. There are no erosion control measures in place for this site near the northern end of the runway.

