



# U.S. ARMY GARRISON ALASKA QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES

January 2008, Issue 12

This is a quarterly update on U.S. Army Garrison Alaska activities and issues that might be of interest to federally recognized tribes in Alaska.

## HAINES FUEL TERMINAL RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

On October 23, 2007, Army personnel Ms. Therese Deardorff, Ms. Cristal Fosbrook and Ms. Amanda Shearer attended the Haines Fuel Terminal (HFT) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) which started at 6:30 pm and was held in the Chilkat Center, Haines, Alaska. Several RAB members attended along with Army contractors, a representative of the Chilkoot Indian Association, state and federal agency representatives and interested members of the public.

During the meeting, Mr. Jeremy Blei, CH2M Hill, provided an update on activities since the last RAB meeting in May 2007. These activities included groundwater and surface water monitoring. His presentation included sampling locations, results, and a review of key geological features and performance of the groundwater treatment system.

New work will be completed under the Performance-Based Contract (PBC), which was awarded to North Wind, Inc. on April 20, 2007. Ms. Kim Kearney, North Wind project manager for the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline Environmental Remediation Services Contract, introduced Mr. Doug Jorgenson, who will serve as the Haines Fuel Terminal Site Lead for North Wind. She also gave a presentation regarding upcoming work. During her presentation, Ms. Kearney discussed the Project Management Plan (PMP), which gives a summary of the scope of work, roles and responsibilities, and schedule. A copy of the PMP is in the Haines

Library and individual copies have been sent to RAB Community Co-Chairs Ms. Ashley Sage, Mr. Ed Warren, and RAB member Mr. Jim Studley. Ms. Kearney also discussed work completed in 2007 and future plans.

The contract includes four sites: the Haines Fuel Terminal, sections of the Haines Fairbanks Pipeline that are under Army ownership, the Sears Creek Station, and the Tok Fuel Terminal. The PMP lists the performance work statement requirements. At the HFT there are two requirements. The first is to achieve a remedy in place and complete a Decision Document by May 1, 2012. A remedy in place means that final remedial action has been selected, implemented, and operated. A decision document can be a variety of documents, it will identify the remedial action objectives and performance activities, describes the chosen remedial remedy, and explains why this one was chosen by the Army. The second requirement is to complete all State regulatory requirements. For the other three sites under the contract, the scope of work requires remedial investigations and feasibility studies (RI/FS) to be completed by May 1, 2010. These will include investigation and characterization of the sites, and a determination of where contaminants are or are not present and in what concentrations they are present. Again, all applicable State regulatory requirements must be completed.

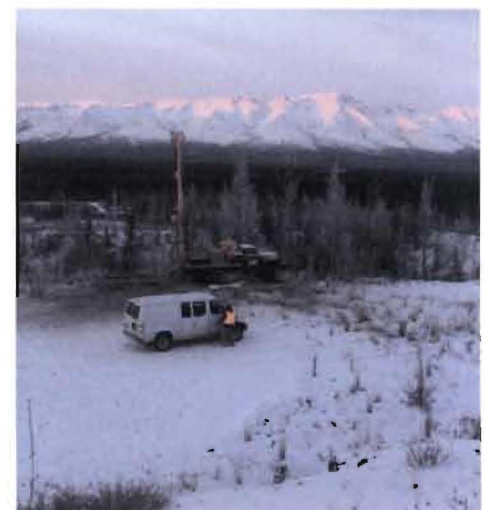
Ms. Kearney then discussed the

other sites involved in the contract. The pipeline site is actually a series of sites along the Haines-Fairbanks pipeline route. ENSR, the contracting company, conducted site inspections at 23 segments of the pipeline. The team conducted field screening using a photoionization detector (PID) and

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Sears Creek Station



Tok Fuel Terminal



## HAINES FUEL TERMINAL RAB (cont. from page 1)

collected surface soil samples from areas with elevated PID readings. Over the winter 2007/2008, results will be evaluated and a summary report completed. In 2008 teams will return to segments that have contamination present or have data gaps. These areas will be further investigated and summary reports prepared. After these reports are completed, a Decision Document will be prepared that identifies what remedial actions will be required to achieve site closure, for example, if source removal or treatment on site would be necessary.

The third site in the contract is the Sears Creek Pump Station. In 2007, a new chain link fence was installed to try to secure the site against vandalism. A total of 17 soil borings were drilled and 34 soil samples collected. Five new monitoring wells were installed and sampled. Over winter 2007/2008, sample results will be evaluated and reporting completed. In 2008, additional investigation will take place to fill data gaps identified in 2007 activities. Reports will be written and a Decision Document prepared that will identify what remedial actions are required to achieve site closure.

The last contract site is the Tok Fuel Terminal. In 2007, 14 soil borings were drilled and 32 soil samples collected. Seven new groundwater wells were installed, and 12 wells were sampled. As with the other sites, data will be evaluated over the winter and a summary report prepared. In 2008, additional investigations will take place to fill data gaps and activities detailed in summary reports and the RI/FS. A Decision Document will be prepared that identifies what remedial actions would be required to achieve site closure.

The next Haines Fuel Terminal RAB meeting is tentatively set for April 14, 2008 in Haines. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

## AVIATION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was published in the Federal Register on Wednesday, April 4, 2007. The EIS will assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the stationing and training of increased numbers and types of aviation assets within Alaska. The proposed increase and reorganization will allow the Army to transition to a force that is capable of providing a broad range of integrated aviation training experiences to the forces of U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK), and more aviation capabilities when the unit deploys to support operational missions abroad. Existing aviation units would potentially be reorganized and stationed at Fort Wainwright, Fort Richardson or other military installations to support the training of aviation assets on U.S. Army training lands in Alaska. Eielson Air Force Base is also being considered as a potential stationing location for the aviation assets.

The reorganized unit would be capable of providing first line air transport, air reconnaissance, and close air support. The new aviation unit would be built around the existing USARAK aviation fleet of 30 medium and heavy lift transport helicopters, and USARAK's 640 aviation personnel. To this the Army proposes to add helicopters capable of providing medical evacuation, air reconnaissance, close air support, and aviation attack capabilities. The proposed aviation unit, an Aviation Task Force or Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), would potentially consist of up to 62 medium and heavy lift helicopters, 30 combat scout helicopters, 24 attack helicopters, and between 1,200 to 2,850 personnel. This proposed stationing and training of increased aviation assets involves construction of new facilities, execution of day-to-day support operations, and

routine joint military training at nearby training lands and ranges. Helicopter types associated with the proposed action include UH-60 Blackhawk, HH-60 Pave Hawk, CH-47 Chinook, OH-58D Kiowa, and AH-64 Apache. Both the Kiowa and Apache are new to Alaska.

An EIS is being prepared primarily due to the potential impacts to historic resources within the cantonment area of Fort Wainwright. Several facilities are proposed for construction and demolition within the Ladd Airfield National Historic Landmark. Impacts to these individual facilities as well as to the National Historic Landmark as a whole would be significant, thus requiring the preparation of an EIS. Additional impacts include stationing of new aviation assets to Alaska whose impacts to wildlife and noise levels have not been analyzed.

Public and agency scoping meetings were held in Fairbanks, Delta Junction and Anchorage during April. The scoping period ended on May 4, 2007. There were 12 public and five agency comments submitted. The Army is planning to release the draft EIS for tribal, agency and public review in early spring 2008. Comments will be accepted over a 45-day period. Prior notice will be provided to tribes regarding the release of the draft EIS.

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## UPDATE ON THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS HAINES-FAIRBANKS PIPELINE FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES PROJECT



Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline

During the Haines Fuel Terminal Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), Mr. Bob Glascott with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) talked about segments of the Haines-Fairbanks pipeline for which the USACE Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program is responsible. FUDS funding can only be used for sites that are FUDS eligible. Any portions of the pipeline that are non-FUDS eligible are being dealt with by North Wind under contract to the Army.

The pipeline was an 8-inch diameter pipeline on a 50-foot right-of-way that ran between Haines and Fort Wainwright, mostly following the Alaska Highway in interior Alaska. The pipeline was constructed between 1953 and 1955, and was operated until 1971; some portions were deactivated during later periods such as between North Pole and Eielson. The pipeline transported a variety of fuel types such as jet fuel and diesel fuel. The pipeline was deactivated due to problems with corrosion, high operation and maintenance costs and fuel being increasingly moved by rail and highway. In 2003, sampling was undertaken by the Corps to look for herbicides and dioxins as a result of concern that the pipeline had been sprayed with herbicides that contained a compound found in Agent Orange. A report issued by the Corps in January 2004 found that there was no evidence that a herbicide tainted with dioxins had been used along the pipeline.

In 2007, site investigations were undertaken at areas where hydrocarbon contamination could be expected, such as valves. Other sites of interest included documented release sites, scraper traps (used to get pigs in and out of the pipeline during cleaning), and the Birch Lake Tank Farm and Timber Pump Station. A couple of different techniques were

used to pinpoint contamination. Gore-Sorber® modules were used to determine release sites. Gore-Sorber modules are made from Gore-Tex® with resin added. A hole is drilled in the ground; the Gore-Sorber® module is then added and left for about 10 days. After this period, the Gore-Sorber® module is sent to the laboratory and the resin is tested. The resin will bond to hydrocarbons. The Gore-Sorber® modules were used in areas where a leak location had not previously been pinpointed. For example, the Gore-Sorber® modules were used where a leak location was only known by a general milepost area.

Other more invasive activities were also used. The gate valves were removed, as they were sites where hydrocarbon contamination was likely. Mr. Glascott showed a series of photos depicting a typical gate valve removal operation. As the gate valves were removed, up to 20 cubic yards of contaminated soil could be removed for treatment. Most of the contamination was found under the valves. From the Canadian border to Delta Junction, the pipeline was lying on the ground; north of Delta Junction, the pipeline was nominally buried. Of the 28 sites investigated in 2007, 16 will require additional investigation. Additional delineation will be completed in 2008. The project is in the initial stages, so any soil removed was only incidental to investigations. If the amount of contaminated soil was more than 20 cubic yards, clean fill was trucked in and the excavation closed. The project is only funded for investigation and not remediation.



Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline

# EAGLE RIVER FLATS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

The U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK) proposes to remove existing winter-only firing restrictions and maximize year-round weapons training opportunities at Eagle River Flats (ERF) Impact Area, Fort Richardson, Alaska. The Army is proposing to open ERF to year-round training in order to fulfill current military training needs at Fort Richardson. The overall goal is to maximize the ability for small unit training at Fort Richardson and to limit travel to other installations in an effort to provide a more stable family environment for Soldiers.

Due to existing environmental restrictions that prohibit year-round training, units stationed at Fort Richardson cannot meet weapon qualification requirements by training at Fort Richardson. At the current time, Soldiers stationed at Fort Richardson must travel to Fort Wainwright during summer months to complete training requirements.

The Army published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS on August 20, 2007 to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the resumption of year-round live-fire weapons training at Fort Richardson. This would include the use of direct and indirect fire

weapons systems. The EIS will analyze the proposed action's impacts upon the natural and manmade environment.

The EIS will help the Army better understand the extent of potential impacts of year-round firing on areas within ERF previously contaminated by white phosphorous, the Cook Inlet population of beluga whales (very soon to listed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered species), as well as noise impacts on other wildlife. The Draft EIS will be published by early Spring 2008, and will be made available to tribes, agencies and the public over a 45-day comment period. Prior notice will be provided to Upper Cook Inlet tribes regarding the release of the Draft EIS.



Eagle River Flats

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