



# Former Galena FOL Environmental Update

Published to keep the Galena, Alaska, community informed of the Air Force's cleanup progress | July 2014

## Military Munitions Program Makes Great Progress

This summer, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ahtna Environmental, Inc. and Bay West LLC completed the investigative field work at five munitions sites at Galena FOL Alaska that was initiated in 2012.

The sites were being investigated as part of a Comprehensive Site Evaluation, Phase II under the Air Force Military Munitions Response Program as locations potentially containing munitions and explosives of concern as well as munitions debris.

While the 2013 field season was delayed as a result of the spring flood, Ahtna and Bay West were able to prepare the sites for field work in the Fall of 2013. Field work began this summer near the Galena Runway at the Former Bldg. 1400 and Former Bldg. T-550, both used for ammunition storage, and the Hot Cargo Pad sites. Other than construction debris from prior airport facilities, no munitions were discovered.

Work at the Rocket Shipping Container Site addressed the removal of 369 pieces of debris belonging to metal containers used to ship rocket motors and warheads. Following an extensive trenching and investigation effort, no rocket motors or warheads were discovered on site.



*Air Force contractor, Ahtna, recovered empty rocket shipping containers which were verified empty, crushed and disposed of in the Galena landfill. U.S. Air Force photo/Ahtna*

The final area investigated was the "Demolition Area", also known as Parcel D, which exists north of the former installation. This approximately 85 acre area was identified as a "Demolition Area" in historic documents. During the investigation, some small pieces of munitions-related debris were found in a few locations, but no munitions or explosives of concern were discovered

within this area.

The final report addressing the investigation and its findings will be made available by the Air Force later this year.

## Proposed Cleanup Methods to be Presented at RAB

Air Force PBR contractors will present the proposed cleanup methods for Galena sites being cleaned up under the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Contaminated Sites Program during the next RAB meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2014. Representatives from Parsons and CH2M HILL will discuss the approach and technologies that are proposed to clean up sites contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons. A summary will be made available to the public prior to the RAB meeting to allow time to review the proposed techniques and prepare any questions or comments.

The Air Force will hold a separate public meeting for sites being cleaned up under the CERCLA process after Feasibility Studies are complete and the Proposed Plans are available for public review. Preliminary plans for cleaning up the CERCLA sites, which are contaminated with chemicals other than petroleum, will also be presented at the RAB meeting.

AFCEC will post the summary on the Air Force BRAC website prior to the RAB meeting at [www.afcec.af.mil/brac/galena/rabdocuments/index.asp](http://www.afcec.af.mil/brac/galena/rabdocuments/index.asp).

# Help Improve RAB Meeting Attendance

The Air Force is looking for community input on how to better schedule and improve attendance at Restoration Advisory Board meetings. The April meeting conflicted with other scheduled events and attendance was low. These meetings are held for the benefit of the community to inform every one of the Air Force cleanup progress and provide a forum for the community to ask questions to the Air Force and its contractors.

The Air Force proposes to hold the next RAB meeting at **7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2014**, at the Larsen Charlie Hall. Topics for discussion will include proposed cleanup

methods, plans for 2015, and an update on the Military Munitions Response Program field work. In addition, there are presently a few open slots on the RAB for Galena residents. If you are interested in supporting your community by becoming a RAB member, please contact Tim Bodony, the RAB co-chairperson, or Gail Graban at AFCEC. Contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

**RAB presentations available online.** Please visit, [www.afcec.af.mil/brac/galena/rabdocuments/index.asp](http://www.afcec.af.mil/brac/galena/rabdocuments/index.asp) to access all past Galena RAB presentations.

## Restoration Contract Awarded for Galena

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center has awarded a contract to accelerate environmental cleanup while saving millions of taxpayer dollars at the former Galena Forward Operating Location in Galena, Alaska.

The performance-based remediation contract went to Parsons, who sub-contracted with CH2M HILL and Ahtna. The Parsons Team is expected to have all cleanup remedies in place at the remaining 31 sites at Galena by the end of 2019, years ahead of the Air Force's projected schedule.

PBR contracts are the preferred way of cleaning up environmental contamination for bases closed under the Base Realignment and Closure Act. Although contractors execute daily operations, AFCEC is

ultimately responsible for cleanup at all 40 bases closed under BRAC, including Galena.

PBR contracts are attractive because they allow the Air Force to partner with companies like Parsons to clean up land faster using private industry's innovative solutions and technologies, said AFCEC's BRAC Program Management Division Chief Stephen TerMaath.

"The Air Force relies on PBR contractors for their creative thinking and problem solving skills in addition to their technical know-how," said TerMaath. "Rather than tell the contractor how to clean up contaminated sites, we provide flexibility in how they choose to complete cleanup provided they are meeting important milestones we

establish. We don't detail every step in the process because we are most focused on the end result."

Under PBR contracts, sites are often cleaned to "unrestricted use" which means there will be no restrictions against developing the land for any particular purpose, including residential. At Galena, eight of 31 sites will be closed to unrestricted use under the PBR.

Galena is the 28th and final BRAC base to be included in a PBR contract. In all, the current whole-base BRAC PBR contracts are valued at nearly \$367 million and encompass 580 sites across 28 former bases. With the award at Galena, AFCEC is meeting its goal to have 95 percent of all BRAC sites under a PBR contract by the end of 2014.

# 2013 Accomplishments, 2014 Next Steps

In spite of the flood and the late start to the field season, supplemental sampling planned at the Galena sites was completed in 2013. Two contractors, CH2M HILL and Parsons, performed the sampling field activities.

A third contractor, TetraTech, conducted a soil excavation at Site SS016, initiated treatment of a solvent, trichloroethylene or TCE, contaminated soil stockpile, and expanded the land-farm in 2013.

The only field work that was delayed due to the flood was sampling and field activities under the Military Munitions Response Program. That work is currently underway in 2014.

## Next steps in 2014

The 2013 completion of the supplemental sampling enables the Air Force to proceed to the next steps in the environmental cleanup process and will be completed under the Galena PBR.

For sites being cleaned up under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or CERCLA process, the next step is preparation of a Feasibility Study which evaluates different cleanup approaches, followed by a Proposed Plan which presents the recommended approach, and the Record of Decision that documents the agreed upon cleanup. Parsons will perform the cleanup of the CERCLA sites.

In an effort to expedite cleanup, Parsons may initiate pilot studies in 2015 to validate proposed remedies while the CERCLA documents are being written. Parsons plans to implement a similar process used by the Air Force for a pilot study con-

## Work scheduled for Summer/Fall 2014

- Groundwater sampling in August/September
- South Apron Maintenance Area or Site SS015 Bioreactor operations to include injection of chemicals to evaluate if cleanup can be expedited
- Treating soil at the land-farm and soil stockpiled at Million Gallon Hill
- Completing the investigation of the Military Munitions Response Program sites
- Trenching around debris at Disposal Area West of Dike directly south of Million Gallon Hill to determine the size of the burial area and collect samples

ducted on the bioreactor at the South Apron Maintenance Area or Site SS015.

The next step for sites contaminated with petroleum, oils, and lubricants being cleaned up under the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation process, is the preparation of cleanup plans. These plans will describe the cleanup levels and techniques for each site.

The goal is to complete as many of the Cleanup Plans as possible so that cleanup activities can begin during Summer 2015. CH2MHILL, subcontractor to Parsons, is planning to conduct remedial excavations at several petroleum contaminated sites in late 2015 when the groundwater levels are lower. High water levels in the early spring prevent removal of contamination in saturated soil.

## A New and Improved Air Force Administrative Record

The Air Force has combined the Administrative Record for all installations including BRAC. The webpage is similar to the previous version except now you must select "BRAC" first before selecting Galena AFB from the installation list.

Visit the new page today at <http://afcec.publicadmin-record.us.af.mil/> for the latest progress at Galena and take advantage of the following improvements.

- *BRAC AR Numbers* - The original BRAC AR numbers are now displaying in the search results
- *Sort Results* - Results are now "sortable" by clicking the column header

- *Tool Tips* - Hover over a search field for a brief description and instruction
- *508 Compliance* - We ensure public information is accessible for people with disabilities

Here are a couple of the additional improvements you will soon find in the near future.

- *AR Number Search Field* - A completely separate search box for only the AR number will be added
- *Search Result Color* - The color of the search result after the record is viewed will change

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**Next RAB Meeting:** Aug. 19, 2014, 7 p.m.

**Location:** Larsen Charlie Hall

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## Galena FOL Restoration Contacts

### General Questions:

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## Feedback, comments, and more information

I would like more information about the environmental cleanup of the former Galena FOL.

I would like more information about the Restoration Advisory Board for the former Galena FOL.

Please let us know how we are doing. Your comments and opinions are welcomed and assist the Air Force in providing the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding the cleanup for the former Galena FOL. Fill out this form and send it to the address listed below.

Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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Detach and mail this section in a stamped envelope to: AFCEC/Public Affairs, 2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 155, JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853