



The Former Galena FOL Environmental Update

Published to keep the Galena, Alaska community informed of the Air Force's cleanup progress | Apr 2015

Special Edition: Environmental Cleanup Open Comment Period

As a special edition of the Former Galena FOL Environmental Update, AFCEC presents an extended version complete with three very important fact sheets ready for your feedback.

You are encouraged to review and comment on the following fact sheets described below. The Air Force will hold a 30-day public comment period from April 13 to May 14, 2015 to solicit comments from the public. You can get involved by providing comments in writing (via email adolph.weilbacher@us.af.mil or regular mail using the address listed on page 8).

As a member of the local community, you provide valuable insight into cultural, environmental, economic or social factors that should be considered in the decision process. The Air Force uses your input to understand any potential impacts and ensure a comprehensive decision making process is followed.

A **public meeting** will be held in Galena, Alaska on **Wednesday, April 15, 2015 from 7-9 p.m.** at the **Larsen Charlie Hall** to discuss the fact sheets and inform the public of the plans for the summer.

All comments must be submitted to BRAC Environmental Coordinator, AL Weilbacher (adolph.weilbacher@us.af.mil) by May 14, 2015. Please be sure to include the title of the fact sheet and your full name and address when submitting your comments.

All supporting documents can be found at the Former Galena FOL AR Site (<http://afcec.publicadmin-record.us.af.mil/>). Select BRAC, select Galena, then enter the AR# referenced in each fact sheet into the Full Metadata Search field for easy access.

Table of Contents

Disposal Site West of Dike Time Critical Removal Action Fact Sheet.....Page 2-3
 Small Arms Firing Range Time Critical Removal Action Fact Sheet and Map of SAFR.....Page 4-5
 Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol Fact Sheet and Map of Galena MRAs.....Page 6-7

Date	Summer 2015 Planned Activities
Aug/Sept 2015	Time Critical Removal Action at Disposal Site West of Dike
Aug 2015	Time Critical Removal Action at Small Arms Firing Range
July/Aug 2015	Soil sampling at various sites
July/Aug/Sept 2015	Installation of pilot study soil vapor extraction systems at various sites
Aug 2015	Groundwater sampling
Aug/Sept 2015	Excavation at various sites
Summer 2015	Landfarm O&M

Disposal Site West of Dike (DSWD) Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) Fact Sheet

The United States Air Force is conducting a time critical removal action or TCRA at the Former Galena Forward Operating Location, or FOL, in Galena, Alaska. The TCRA will be completed at the Disposal Site West of Dike (Site DP023). Site DP023 was formerly referred to as Site DSWD. Site DP023 is a former waste disposal area located on property owned by the State of Alaska and managed by the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities. The TCRA will be conducted to remove buried drums, other buried debris (including transformers if found) and Polychlorinated biphenyl, or PCB, contaminated soil. This TCRA will be conducted in accordance with the USAF Environmental Restoration Program under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act also known as CERCLA and the National Oil and Hazardous Pollution Contingency Plan and will comply with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation regulations.

Site History

During a 2010 Restoration Advisory Board meeting, a Galena resident showed the Air Force the approximate location of a transformer disposal area. During the June 2011 site visit, surface debris was observed which was removed by the Air Force in September 2011 and in September 2014. Historical aerial photos and geophysical surveys indicate several locations have been used for waste disposal at Site DP023.

Site Description

Site DP023 encompasses approximately 2-acres outside of the Galena FOL flood control dike, south of the former bulk fuel storage tanks at Million Gallon Hill (Site CG001) and west of West Perimeter Road. To the south, Site DP023 is bordered by a road that leads to the closed municipal landfill and small arms firing range. The Yukon River is approximately 1,500 feet to the south. Site DP023 was heavily wooded prior to clearing completed in 2014 and may become inundated with water during flooding of the Yukon River. *Figure 1* shows the location of Site DP023 and the area with buried metallic debris, which is indicated in red based on the results of a geophysical survey conducted in September 2014.

Previous Investigation

Field investigations for determining the nature and extent of contamination at Site DP023 were conducted in 2011, 2013, and 2014.

- In 2011 a Site Inspection and Remedial Investigation, or RI, were conducted at Site DP023. During the 2011 field investigation, a geophysical survey was performed and the location of the disposal trench was identified. PCBs were detected in shallow soil samples.
- In 2013 a Supplemental RI was conducted to determine the nature and extent of PCBs and other potential waste constituents in the former waste disposal area. Test pit excavations confirmed the presence of buried debris, including drums containing waste oil.
- In 2014 additional test pit excavations were conducted during a Preliminary Design Investigation to better define the extent of debris and soil contamination.

Surface and subsurface soil at Site DP023 is contaminated with Diesel-Range Organics, Residual Range Organics, Gasoline-Range Organics, petroleum-related VOCs, chlorinated VOCs, metals, PCBs, pesticides and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Sources of shallow soil contamination at Site DP023 appear to be releases related to the surface and buried waste and debris, and onsite surface spills. Buried wastes include metal debris, drums containing waste oil, batteries and material containing PCBs disposed of near the base of West Perimeter Road.

Relevant documents include:

- RI Results Report Disposal Area West of Dike (CH2M HILL, May 2013) AR #648
- Supplemental RI Report Disposal Area West of Dike (Parsons, April 2015) (AR #454047)
- Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment, Disposal Site West of Dike (Parsons, February 2015). (AR #454015)
- Draft Preliminary Design Investigation Report, Site DP023 (Disposal Area West of Dike), Former Galena FOL AK. (Parsons, April 2015) (AR #454051)

TCRA Objectives

Based on the site evaluation, it was determined that less than six months exist before onsite removal activity must begin. The factors considered to determine that a TCRA is warranted include the necessity to mitigate risks to human health and the environment posed by PCB-contaminated soils, buried drums that are suspected to contain liquid waste and other near surface debris which may include transformers containing PCBs. There is a limited time-frame for completing the removal action because groundwater beneath Site DP023 rises and falls with the elevation of the Yukon River and groundwater levels are only low enough to excavate for several weeks at the end of the summer field season.

The removal action is intended to remove the buried debris and contaminated soil to a depth of approximately 15 feet. The 15-foot depth is the expected depth of groundwater beneath the site at the time the excavation is planned. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Method Two Human Health soil cleanup levels will be used as a basis for determining the lateral extent of soil removal. The cleanup

level is 1 milligram per kilogram (mg/kg) for total PCBs in soil.

TCRA Actions

The TCRA at Site DP023 will focus on the following:

- Remove and properly dispose of, decontaminate or recycle drums, metal debris and other non-porous debris.
- Segregate soil to determine if, and to what extent, it is contaminated.
- Dispose of PCB wastes or other hazardous wastes at appropriate facilities.
- Collect confirmation soil samples to ensure all contaminated soil and waste has been excavated.
- Backfill, compact and restore the site.

Schedule

Mobilization of equipment and materials for completion of the Site DP023 TCRA is planned to begin in June 2015. Implementation of the TCRA is planned to begin in August 2015 and be completed in September 2015. Transportation of waste out of Galena is planned for June 2016 following characterization.

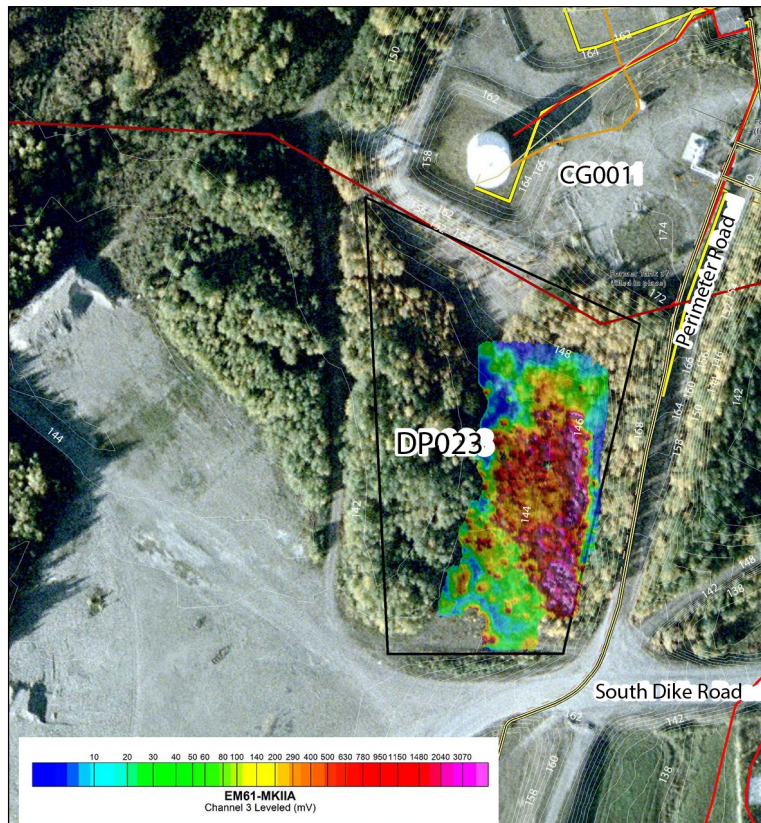


Figure 1: Map of Site DP023 and the area with buried metallic debris, which is indicated in red. Photo Courtesy: AF Contractor, Parsons

Small Arms Firing Range Time Critical Removal Action Fact Sheet

The United States Air Force is conducting a time critical removal action or TCRA at the Former Galena Forward Operating Location in Galena, Alaska. The area of focus for this TCRA is the Small Arms Firing Range, or SAFR, which is located on property owned by the State of Alaska and managed by the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities. The TCRA will be conducted to remove contaminated soil associated with the SAFR so that the range can be decommissioned as requested by the landowner. This TCRA will be conducted in accordance with the USAF Environmental Restoration Program under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or CERCLA, and the National Oil and Hazardous Pollution Contingency Plan and will comply with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation regulations.

Site History

The SAFR was constructed between 1952 and 1963 (as identified on aerial photographs). There is limited documentation on the construction and use of the SAFR; it appears to have been used jointly by the Air Force, other agencies and the public. Following closure of the former Galena FOL in 2008, the SAFR continued to be used for fire arm training by local residents and law enforcement.

Site Description

The SAFR is located several hundred feet west of the Galena Airport runway along the road leading to the closed municipal landfill. The site was, historically, approximately 2.19 acres with the current footprint being 1.19 acres. Currently, the SAFR consists of two lateral berms, each approximately 12 feet tall, and a backstop. The range is oriented north-south, with the line of fire north of the firing line. The distance from the firing line to the backstop is approximately 250 feet. *See Figure 2: Map of SAFR.*

Previous Investigation

In 2008, a Comprehensive Site Evaluation Phase II was conducted at the SAFR. X-ray fluorescence, or XRF, screening was performed at the site along with analytical surface soil samples.

Lead exceeded the associated human health screening criteria in four of the 15 samples collected and antimony exceeded the associated human health screening criteria in one of the 15 samples collected. Exposure point concentrations for lead and antimony also exceeded the most conservative ecological risk criteria. The highest concentrations of lead were detected in the center of the backstop, along with the one antimony result exceeding human health screening criteria.

Relevant documents include:

- Final Historical Records Review (2014) (AR # 300961 and 300961.1)
- Final CSE Phase I Report (AR # 318)
- Final Supplemental CSE Phase I Report (AR # 367)
- Draft Final Comprehensive Site Evaluation Phase II Report (AR # 431)
- Correspondence from ADOT&PF–Galena FOL SAFR (AR # 420833)

TCRA Objectives

Based on the site evaluation, it was determined that less than six months exist before onsite removal activity must begin. The factors considered to determine that a TCRA is warranted include the necessity to mitigate the imminent and substantial exposure of lead- and antimony-contaminated soil to public health, welfare and the environment; the potential migration of contaminants in soils near the surface to surface water; and the landowner request to the Air Force to remove the SAFR.

The removal action is intended to achieve a no further action status to allow for unlimited use/unrestricted exposure at the site.

The most stringent Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Method To Table B1 soil cleanup levels will be used to assess risk to human health which are 3.6 milligrams/kilograms for antimony and 400 mg/kg for lead.

TCRA Actions

- Vegetation Removal – Prior to preliminary field screening/sampling activities and excavation, vegetation will be removed.
- Preliminary Sampling – Preliminary sampling of the

(Continued from page 4)

current and historical configurations of the berms, backstop and target area will be conducted. Activities will include visual inspections, field screening and analytical sampling to identify any contaminant “hot spots,” as well as delineate the vertical and horizontal extents of contamination.

- Removal Action – The excavation will begin within the boundaries identified during the preliminary sampling. It is anticipated that approximately 260 cubic yards of soil will be excavated and disposed at an appropriate facility. An XRF meter will be used in the field as a screening tool to aid the excavation.

After excavation activities are completed, the stockpiled soil will be sampled to ensure proper disposal. Confirmation samples will be collected from the excavation area to ensure no contaminated soils are left behind. XRF field screening and confirmation sampling of the excavation area will be conducted. Once all confirmation samples indicate no contaminants of concern remain above the project action levels in the excavation or stockpiled soil staging area, the site will be restored to natural grade.

Schedule

The duration of the TCRA is expected to be less than six months. Field work is anticipated to begin in July and is expected to be completed by August 2015.



Figure 2: Map of Small Arms Firing Range. Photo Courtesy: AF Contractor, Ahtna

Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol Fact Sheet

Recently, the Air Force completed a Supplemental Comprehensive Site Evaluation, or CSE, Phase II at former Galena Forward Operating Location, in Galena, Alaska. The Air Force developed the CSE process to serve as the initial munitions response action of its Military Munitions Response Program, or MMRP. The goal of the CSE is to obtain sufficient data to support Air Force decision-making with regards to effectively managing its munitions response sites, while protecting human health and the environment. The following are the Supplemental CSE Phase II areas of investigation and results (*see Figure 3 for a complete map of the Munitions Response Area*):

Former Ammunition Storage Building 1400 (ML102): This munitions response area, or MRA, encompasses approximately 0.5 acres and is located approximately 900 feet north of the Galena Airport runway. The MRA is the site of a known former building used to store small arms and/or air-to-air ammunition. Digital geophysical mapping, or DGM, data was collected over the entire MRA. All required anomalies were investigated. No munitions and explosives of concern, or MEC, were encountered and no munitions constituents, or MC, source was identified. No Further Action, or NFA, has been approved. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, or ADEC, concurs.

Hot Cargo Pad (ML104): This MRA encompasses approximately 2.89 acres and is located on the northeastern end of the airport runway. The Hot Cargo Pad was identified as an area used for the downloading of hung munitions items. DGM data was collected over the entire MRA. All required anomalies were investigated. No MEC or munitions debris, also known as MD, was encountered and no MC source was identified. NFA has been approved. The ADEC concurs.

Rocket Shipping Container Site (ML101): This MRA encompasses approximately 0.65 acres and is a wooded area on the western slope of the dike across the road from the Galena sewage treatment plant. During a drum removal effort in July 2009, rocket shipping containers were identified. A visual survey and analog investigation were performed over all of the MRA. All subsurface anomalies were investigated. No MEC was encountered

and no MC source was identified. All encountered debris and packaging encountered were empty and properly disposed. NFA has been approved. The ADEC concurs.

Demolition (OB/OD) – Parcel D (XE100): This MRA is an 86.41-acre wooded area lying north of the former USAF base and is bound to the north by Native-owned property. Parcel D was labeled as a "Demolition Area" in the 1966 Galena Airport Deed. Based on a statistical program developed by the U.S. government (UXO Estimator), 16 grids within the MRA were selected for investigation. DGM data was collected over the entirety of each grid. The required anomalies were studied and no MEC was encountered, and no MC source was identified. As calculated by Unexploded Ordnance or UXO Estimator, there is 97.76 percent confidence that there is less than or equal to 1.0 UXO per acre. NFA has been approved. The ADEC concurs.

Former T-550 Ammunition Storage Building (ML103): This MRA is located south of the Galena Airport runway, just north of S. Dyke Road and is approximately 0.19 acres in size. The MRA is the site of a former building reported to have been used for ammunition storage. A visual survey and analog investigation were performed over 100 percent of the MRA. All areas with a high density anomaly signature indicative of a possible ordnance burial pit were investigated. No MEC or MD was encountered and no MC source was identified. NFA has been approved. The ADEC concurs.

Former Galena FOL is one of many military installations throughout the United States reviewed under the Department of Defense's Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol, or MRSP, also referred to as "the protocol." The protocol is used to assess sites that may have UXO, discarded military munitions or munitions constituents, and to assign priorities for any additional investigation or munitions removal that may be required based on overall site conditions. Generally, a site with a higher priority will be addressed before one with a lower priority; other factors, such as mission-driven requirements or community input may influence the Air Force sequencing decisions. All sites investigated as part of the Supplemental CSE

Phase II received a rating of No Known or Suspected Hazard and an MRS Priority of 0.

The evaluation criteria, including types of munitions that may be present, ease of access to the site and number of people living near the site, are available for public review.

Relevant document includes:

- MRSPP for Galena (USACE, March 2015) (AR # 452792)

- Final Supplemental CSE Phase II Report (AR#454055) and ADEC concurrence (AR# 454021)
- No Further Action Explosives Safety Submission (AR# 454006) and approval letters (AR# 454014 and 454007)

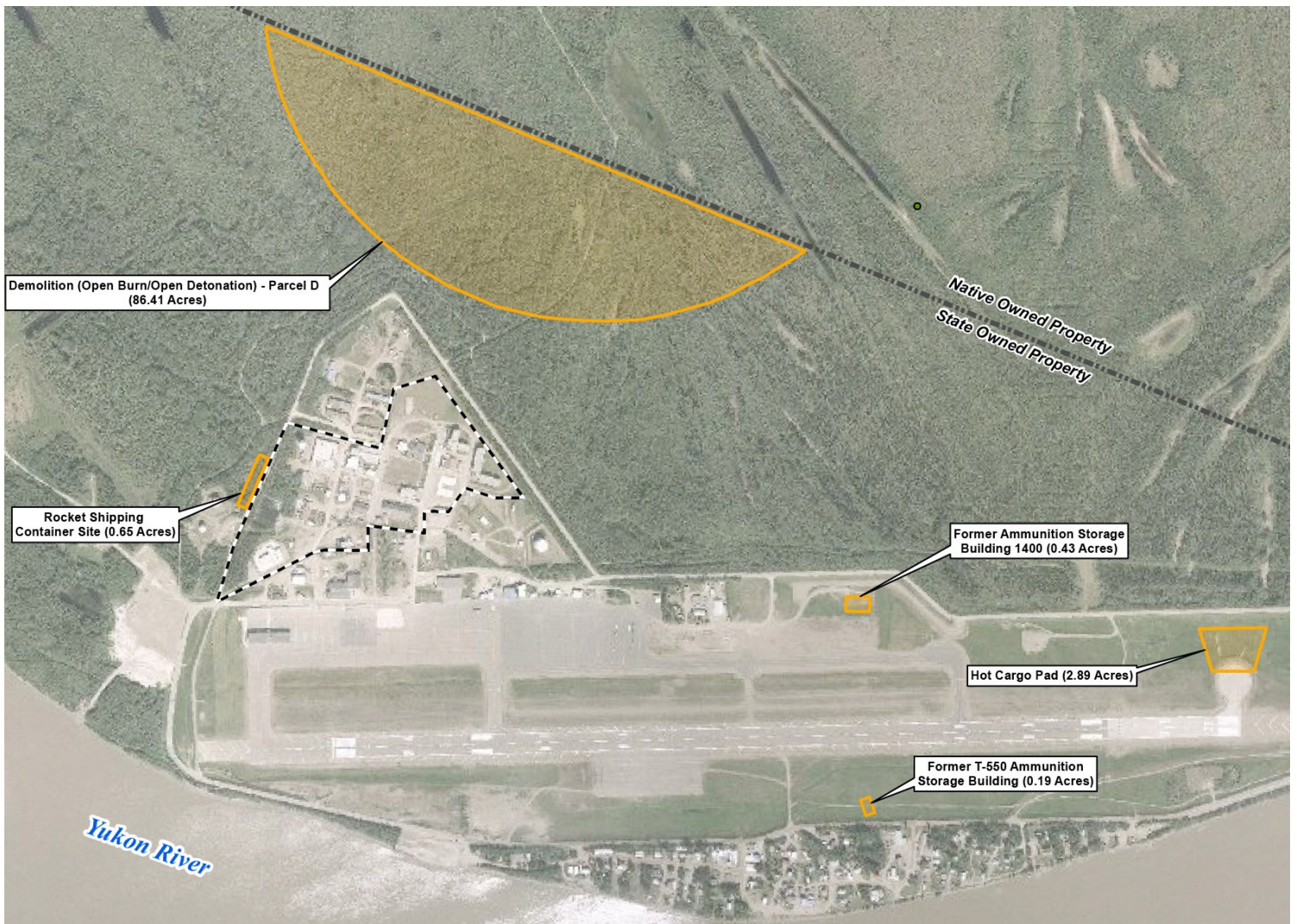


Figure 3: Map of Munitions Response Areas. Photo Courtesy: AF Contractor, Ahtna

AFCEC/Public Affairs
2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 155
JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853

Next RAB Meeting: April 15, 2015, 7-9 p.m.

Location: Larsen Charlie Hall

All comments must be submitted to BRAC Environmental Coordinator, AL Weilbacher via email adolph.weilbacher@us.af.mil or physical mail at the address listed below by May 14, 2015.

Galena FOL Restoration Contacts

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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 _____

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