

**Pribilof Island Restoration Advisory Board
St. Paul School Board Room, St. Paul, Alaska
August 5, 2005**

Participants

Victor Mercurief, Sr., co-chair, St. Paul
Bernie Denno, co-chair, NOAA
Phil Zavadil, Tribal Government of St. Paul
Jason Bourdukofsky, member at large
Lori Aldrich, ADEC
Louis Howard, ADEC
John Lindsay, NOAA
Julie Shane
Paula Souik, NOAA
David B. Winandy, NOAA

Welcome and Introductions

- Victor Mercurief called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.
- Lori Aldrich from ADEC solid waste program was introduced.
- Sign-in sheet was circulated.

Distribution of Final December RAB Notes

- Due to the uncertainty of when and if a RAB meeting would be held in 2005, December 2004 RAB meeting notes were previously distributed for review. Following a review period, the minutes were finalized.
- Final December 2004 RAB minutes are available online at www.response.restoration.noaa.gov/rab/.

Review of Meeting Agenda

There were no comments on or additions to the agenda.

Update on 10x Rule and Critical Water Management Area

NOAA applied for 10X rule designation from ADEC for the Village of St. Paul. Because groundwater contamination occurs in the village, but the groundwater is not used as a drinking water source, NOAA did not feel it was necessary to adhere to the most stringent ADEC criteria for groundwater cleanup. NOAA in conjunction with ADEC requested that the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) establish a critical water management area (CWMA). Gary Prokosch from the DNR has been and continues to work on establishing a CWMA. Gary must do a briefing paper and send it to his commissioner. After that, it must go to the Attorney General. A CWMA public meeting was held on St. Paul Island in April 2005. Other than students, no one attended from St. Paul. Following the public meeting, the DNR published their intentions for four weeks in the newspaper. Once the decision is final, it'll be published again.

Comment: Victor Mercurief, Sr. on behalf of TDX stated that, for the record, TDX couldn't agree to anything regarding the water issues because of the pending litigation. TDX was unable to agree to the CWMA boundaries or other related matters.

Response: John Lindsay explained that no actual property boundaries were used to identify the CWMA. The State did require that boundaries for the area be identified, but they were not tied to ownership. They were tied to hydrology.

Proposed Long-Term Groundwater Monitoring Plan

- Jim Malchow, who drafted the plan, was on the phone from NOAA's Seattle office to provide additional detail and answer questions, if necessary. Paula Souik presented the information.
- Eight-seven (87) wells are currently on St. Paul Island.
- The wells have helped in the progress of the cleanup activities; however, the wells also can have liabilities and impede land use. NOAA plans to remove any wells that are not necessary. Wells that are retained will be sentinel (watch) wells and trend observation wells. NOAA will monitor them to determine contaminant trends and to watch for contaminant migration. The remaining wells will be decommissioned or offered for transfer to other entities. Decommissioning will be conducted according to ADEC regulations.
- City of St. Paul – main area of contamination and remediation to date. The 10X rule has been applied in this area. Currently, there are 39 monitoring wells in this area. Ten (10) will be retained as sentinel wells, monitored twice a year. Nine (9) will remain for trend monitoring, monitored once a year. Eleven (11) wells will be decommissioned. Nine (9) wells potentially of use to the Department of Defense or other parties will be offered for transfer and decommissioned if not accepted.
- A slide was shown indicating the location of the wells. The sentinel wells are located between the contaminated sites and the non-contaminated sites to monitor contamination movement.
- Diesel Seep – during 2004, NOAA removed over 10,000 cubic yards of material and installed two granular activated carbon trenches. Five (5) wells are present at this site. Contamination was found in one well. The contaminated well and one well as a sentinel well will be retained. They will be monitored for three years for diesel-range organics, the type of contamination found at the site. The remaining three wells will be decommissioned.
- Ice House Lake – during 2004, 72 cubic yards of material removed. Six (6) wells currently exist. Gasoline-range organics, diesel-range organics, and lead exceeded ADEC Table C cleanup levels in one well. This well will be retained for contaminant trend monitoring. Two (2) down gradient wells will be retained as sentinel wells. Wells will be monitored for three years for gasoline-range organics, diesel-range organics, and lead.
- Lukanin Bay – 400 cubic yards of debris and 1,778 cubic yards of soil removed from the site. No contamination found in monitoring wells to date. The area has been reseeded and erosion control mats have been placed. Inspection of the sited indicates vegetative growth. The three (3) wells at the site will be decommissioned.
- St. Paul Landfill/Tract 42 – Remedial actions took place between 2000 and 2004 at TPA 5 (landfill) sub-sites. In 2004, TPA Site 5a (cell C) was capped with ~25,000 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated soil (PCS) from various TPA sites on St. Paul Island. Grass seed and erosion control mats were placed on cell C in June 2005. Four quarters of sampling resulted in only one minor hit for lead (16.40 ppb in 10/2003; ADEC Table C is 15 ppb) in the eight (8) existing wells. However, PCS placement on cell C and PCS movement in other areas of the landfill are recent; therefore all wells will be sampled annually for 5 years.
- Land spreading area - In 2004, approximately 10,000 cubic yards of PCS from various TPA sites were spread in an approximately 18-inch layer and tilled to accelerate natural attenuation of the petroleum contaminants in the soil. In 2005, the area was seeded with local grass varieties to mitigate wind erosion and enhance phytoremediation. Currently, eight (8) monitoring wells are in the vicinity of this site. Six (6) wells were initially installed to

monitor the Oil Drum Dump Site (ODDS). Gasoline-range organics were detected in three of the six ODDS wells above the ADEC Table C cleanup level of 1.3 mg/L, with a maximum concentration of 6.1 mg/L. Diesel-range organics were detected in two wells of the ODDS wells above the ADEC Table C cleanup level of 1.5 mg/L, with a maximum concentration of 15 mg/L. The ODDS is a formerly used defense site (FUDS), and remaining contamination at the site is attributable to Department of Defense activities. NOAA, therefore, cannot fund monitoring or maintenance of the ODDS wells not needed for monitoring the land spreading area. NOAA will retain four (4) wells to monitor the land spreading area. NOAA is not regulated to monitor the land spreading site but will monitor to ensure the placement of the PCS has not contributed to groundwater contamination. Retained wells will be monitored bi-annually for three years for gasoline-range organics, diesel-range organics, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene. The other wells will be offered for transfer for potential FUDS use.

- Vehicle Boneyard – In 2003, NOAA consolidated any remaining debris and capped it with 2 feet of soil. The area was seeded and erosion control mats were placed; growth has been verified. NOAA has 13 wells in this area and all will be decommissioned or offered for transfer. No contamination has been found in any of these wells.
- Telegraph Hill Scoria Pit – The area was used for drum disposal in the past. NOAA has used the site for clean scoria fill material. Five (5) wells are located at this site. No contamination has been found in these wells. They will be offered for transfer or decommissioned. They are no longer required for use by NOAA.
- At the end of the specified monitoring periods (*i.e.*, 3 to 5 years), NOAA will evaluate the monitoring data and make recommendations for next steps to ADEC.

Question: There are drums in the area of Telegraph Hill. Where does the groundwater flow?

Response: There are petroleum product analytes present at Telegraph Hill in soil and groundwater; however, they do not exceed ADEC cleanup levels. The groundwater flows on the easterly side of Telegraph Hill and flows towards the drinking water field. Most of the wells are located down gradient of the site and can be used for sentinel wells. This is also another FUDS site and NOAA has done as much as it can. Data indicates that no further actions are necessary, and ADEC has issued a no further action determination. If contamination is identified in the future, ADEC could hold DOD responsible.

Question: What are the liabilities of the FUDS wells?

Response: For each well, the full responsibility of law will be assigned to the party that the wells are transferred to, if transfer occurs. If no one wants the use of the wells, NOAA will decommission them to eliminate potential liability. If some entity could use them, NOAA would provide them to reduce reinstallation costs. Free product was unexpectedly found in the well installed near the National Weather Service building. Another part of NOAA will take action there in the future; NOAA/Office of Response and Restoration will leave the well for that purpose.

Update on Season's Field Activities

Sheet Metal Building Demolition

- Last year, a wind storm blew apart walls of the connector bldg. NOAA considered this building a hazard to the community.
- Though NOAA through its Office of Response and Restoration initially did not have funding to demolish the building, NOAA considered it a high priority and found funding.

- In January, NOAA and Bering Sea Eccotech (BSE) demolished the building. BSE did an excellent job. The scraps are in containers to be shipped off-island.

Vegetation and Erosion Control Work

- NOAA seeded and fertilized the landfill cell C and landspreading site.
- Additional seed was spread on cell A.
- Erosion control mats were placed on cell C.

Update on Remaining Field Activities

NOAA staff in Seattle have been working on reports and documentation, and this type of work is almost complete to date. Corrective action reports for the diesel seep site and the landfill cell C will be out soon. NOAA will be producing reports on residual contamination and the land spreading site, and will be finalizing the groundwater monitoring plan.

Comment: There is still a concrete pad at the former location of the power plant annex. Jason Bourdukofsky expressed that he feels the site is still contaminated because of the presence of the pad. There is no use for the pad. Jason mentioned the community garage as a similar case. While the community is not going to drill for water there, it may wish to develop the area. There is still concrete there, the saltwater wells, etc. Jason expressed that no one wants the community garage because they know it is contaminated. He feels these structures are going to hamper development and sees them as “contamination.”

Response: John Lindsay stated that, for the record, NOAA knows that contamination is left behind under some buildings (*e.g.* the old post office, the community garage, the old power plant). While John is not disagreeing with Jason’s perceptions, his authority is limited to the two public laws. Congress has not provided the money to tear down the buildings, and the State does not require NOAA to tear down such buildings to cleanup under them.

Comment: There are human health risks at stake-- safety hazards from buildings and potential contaminant issues.

Response: The contamination issues are very complicated for situations where the government owns the land and buildings, but other entities occupy and use the buildings. Responsibilities are unclear. If there were an immediate safety issue, NOAA could address it, but otherwise it is beyond NOAA’s authority and not supported by Congressional funding.

NOAA Updates

Introduction to New RAB Web Page

- NOAA’s Office of Response and Restoration is updating its entire Web site. The Pribilofs Web site is included in the update. The Web site is being refined currently and its launch is expected in the next few weeks.
- The address will remain the same (<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov>).
- Cleanup information will be found under *Pollutants in the Environment/Integrating Remediation and Restoration*
- RAB info will be found under *Serving Communities/Supporting Local and Regional Decision Making*.
- The RAB Web site direct address is www.response.restoration.noaa.gov/rab/. This contains access to meeting schedules, member contact information, meeting documents, charter and bylaws, and background documents.
- Laura Johnson is the NOAA contact for maintaining the RAB items on the Web.
- The Web site has a quick search box.

Comment: The Web site is great. If we can have documents on the Web site, we won't have to deal with paper documents piling up. Accessing documents from the Web would be preferable to receiving hard copies.

Response: NOAA needs a motion from the RAB that electronic documents are preferred over paper because under the Two Party Agreement NOAA must send out copies to the RAB.

Response: St. Paul co-chair, Victor Mercurief, Sr., indicated NOAA should go ahead and implement the change in process and begin distributing documents in electronic form.

Response: NOAA asked that the request be put in the record.

Administrative Record Update

- The administrative record will be located in the tribal government's office.
- A DVD will be mailed out containing the administrative record index.
- The administrative record includes: legal authorities, RAB documents, agreements and correspondence with various parties, contractual documents, media articles, reference and background documents, Pribilof-wide files, and island-specific documents.
- Approximately 20 linear feet of documents will be on shelves.
- The administrative record will be updated annually.
- Records will be maintained in the tribal government's offices and may be looked at on-site, but may not leave the site. There will be a computer available on-site to look at the index.
- The purpose of the administrative record is to provide the public with access to decision-making documents regarding the cleanup of sites on the island.

Public Comments

Question: When will GIS shape and data files available for sharing?

Response: NOAA is currently working on a comprehensive Pribilof Islands GIS project under a pending agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office. This effort will produce a set of two DVDs-- the first containing narrative, documents, and a map and image gallery and the second containing a GIS project in the form of an ArcGIS 9 document (.mxd) and supporting data.

Question: To whom should data requests be directed?

Response: John Lindsay

Comment: Mitretek Systems has concluded that data at the diesel seep site is insufficient to describe the groundwater flow direction and tidal influence. They do believe it is tidally influenced.

Closing Remarks

Well decommissioning may begin soon if ADEC accepts NOAA's plan. For wells being offered for transfer, other parties will have 60 days to accept.

Question: How do you decommission wells?

Response: Specifications are provided by ADEC. A decommissioning report goes to ADEC and then becomes part of the administrative record. The wells are filled with bentonite. The tubes are not completely removed.

Question: Is anyone knocking on the door for funding?

Response: It is illegal for NOAA to lobby for money. NOAA is trying to let Congress know that it is ready to work if there is funding.

Question: Does Congress know there is still work to be done?

Response: Yes, they are aware, but some feel NOAA has previously squandered money.

Tentative Date for Next Meeting

Spring 2006 on the island

The meeting adjourned at 10:41.