



Anchorage Terminal Reserve

Anchorage, Alaska

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 10

November 2004

Community Involvement Plan for Anchorage Terminal Reserve

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Alaska Railroad Corporation are working together to do an environmental investigation at the Alaska Railroad's property along Ship Creek. This 600-acre site is located at the north end of downtown Anchorage (*see map, page 2*). The official name of the site is **Anchorage Terminal Reserve**. Together, EPA and the Alaska Railroad are studying the nature and extent of contamination in this area. Work at this site could take several years.

In this Plan

- <> Community Involvement Goals
- <> What We've Heard So Far
- <> How We'll Keep You Informed
- <> Recent Project Activities
- <> Current Schedule
- <> About the Site
- <> Contacts For More Information

This is EPA's plan for involving community members in the Anchorage Terminal Reserve project. EPA interviews with residents, community groups, and local organizations helped shape this plan. We will continue to build on these efforts. This plan is designed to be flexible, and we welcome your input and ideas for improvement at any time. To see the latest version of the plan, visit www.epa.gov/r10/earth, click on Index A-Z, then click on A for Anchorage Terminal Reserve.

EPA Invites Your Comments

If you have comments on this community involvement plan, or would like more information on the Anchorage Terminal Reserve project, please contact:

Andrea Lindsay

Community Involvement Coordinator
Toll-free 1-800-424-4372

206-553-1896

lindsay.andrea@epa.gov

>This publication can be made available in other languages by request.

>Se puede conseguir esta publicación en otros idiomas al pedirla.

>Cov lug has ntawm nuav muaj nyob rua lwm yaam lug raw les mej xaav tau.

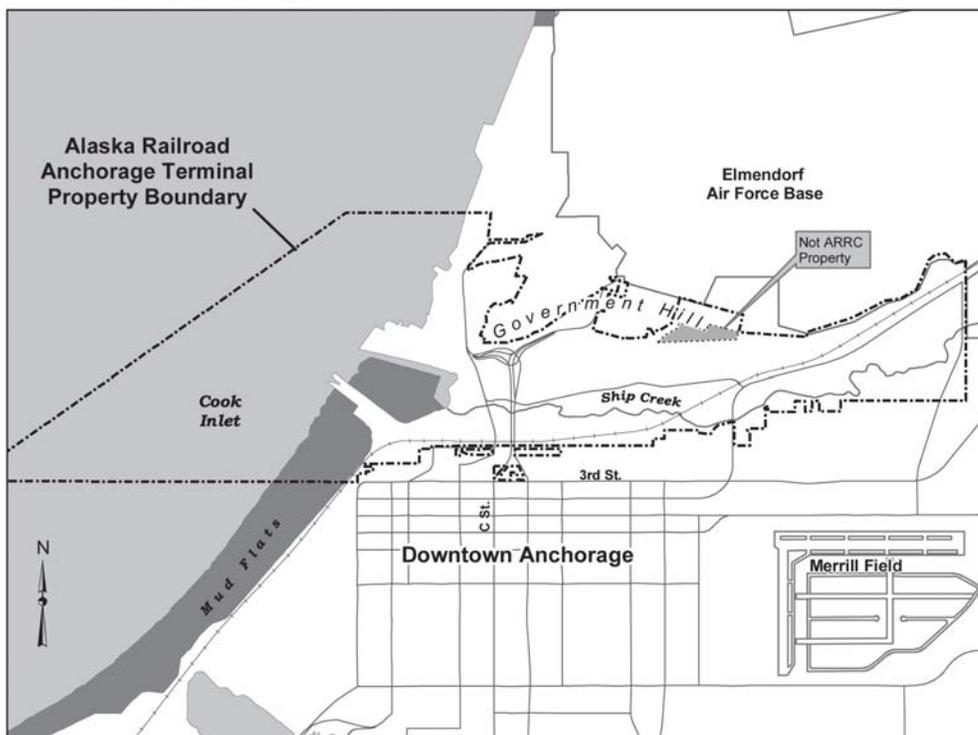
이 출판물은 요청에 따라 다른 언어로도 제공될수 있습니다.

Community Involvement Goals

EPA encourages meaningful community involvement in the Anchorage Terminal Reserve project. Our goals are to:

- Provide useful and timely information on site activities and progress,
- Provide opportunities for public participation and comment,
- Establish open communication, responding to questions and concerns as they arise, and
- Evaluate how well community involvement activities work, and make changes as needed.

Site Overview, Anchorage Reserve ARRC



What We've Heard So Far

A strong local economy with opportunities for development, environmentally safe and healthy neighborhoods, and good fishing and recreation are important to the people of Anchorage. Anchorage enjoys an active and interested base of citizens who care about local issues and are willing to take the time to be involved.

These are some of the themes that EPA heard during interviews with local individuals and organizations in August 2004. These meetings helped EPA get ideas about how to best communicate with the community during the project. They also helped

EPA understand local perceptions and concerns about the work of EPA and the Alaska Railroad in the Ship Creek area.

The most common concern expressed is that EPA's investigation could slow or stop development of the Ship Creek area. Also of concern is that the fishery could be closed or limited if contamination is found. Individuals also expressed concern about protection of the Ship Creek watershed. Another common sentiment is that EPA needs to be clear in its communications about its purpose and goals at this site. EPA must carefully avoid creating false impressions about the severity of issues, i.e., "Don't create a big deal if there isn't one."

continued

What We've Heard So Far *continued*

Most of the people interviewed held positive views of the Alaska Railroad Corporation's communication with the public. Some noted that the local public is often skeptical when dealing with "The Government," including EPA. Some people have had negative experiences dealing with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and believe EPA is covering the same issues all over again.

How We'll Keep You Informed

EPA will use many tools to keep you informed and involved in the work on the Anchorage Terminal Reserve project.

Fact Sheets

EPA will send fact sheets about our work and technical findings. The fact sheets will be mailed to everyone on EPA's mailing list for this site. EPA expects to produce about two or three fact sheets per year. To be added to the mailing list, or to be removed, contact Andrea Lindsay, as noted on the front page.

EPA Community Meetings

EPA will host formal public meetings at key project milestones. The public meetings may be combined with less formal open house sessions. Currently, we plan to hold public meetings at two points:

- <>During the public comment period on the "Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study,"
- <>During the public comment period on the "Proposed Plan," should any cleanup be necessary.

Meetings will be announced in the Anchorage Daily News and by fact sheet or postcard.

Public Review of Documents

The investigation and planning process for any cleanup at this site will be open to the public. Draft reports, work plans, and sampling results will be created during the Remedial

Who Did EPA Interview?

EPA interviewed people from these agencies and organizations:

- Alaska Railroad Corporation
- Municipality of Anchorage, Office of Community and Economic Development
- Port of Anchorage
- Anchorage Economic Development Corp.
- Government Hill Community Council
- Anchorage Waterways Council
- Elmendorf Air Force Base, Environmental Community Relations

We welcome your input, too. Feel free to call Andrea Lindsay, as noted on the front page.

Investigation/Feasibility Study. These documents will be available to the public after the project team has reviewed them for accuracy and completeness. EPA will provide a public comment opportunity on the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and the Proposed Plan. Documents will go on the Web page and to the information repository, both noted below.

Locally Hosted Meetings

EPA project managers will attend local meetings hosted by others, when possible. These meetings would be a chance to discuss issues of concern and the progress of the investigation. To invite EPA to one of your meetings, contact a project representative listed on page 5.

Partnerships

EPA will support the efforts of community partners to share project information where appropriate.

continued

How We'll Keep You Informed *continued*

Newspaper Announcements

EPA will announce its public meetings in the Anchorage Daily News. EPA also will issue press releases to Anchorage media about the site if there is important news to share.

Information Repository

EPA has set up an information repository at ARLIS, the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services. This repository holds documents about the Anchorage Terminal Reserve project. ARLIS is located at the University of Alaska Anchorage Library Building at 3211 Providence Drive, Suite 111. ARLIS is staffed Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Their phone number is 272-7547.

Website

Information about the project can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.gov/r10/earth. Click on Index A-Z, click on A for Anchorage Terminal Reserve. Information includes fact sheets, technical documents and other materials.

Community Group Funding for Technical Assistance

In 2005, the Alaska Railroad Corporation expects to announce the opportunity for community groups to apply for funding. A single organized group meeting certain criteria will be selected to receive the limited funding. The group will be expected to use the funds to hire an independent technical advisor to review documents and provide other assistance. Stay tuned for more information.

Informal Communications

EPA project managers and community involvement staff are available to talk with you about the site at any time. Feel free to contact us to share information, discuss concerns, or ask questions. Our contact information is listed on page 5.

Recent Project Activities

This summer, the Alaska Railroad conducted a **Habitat Assessment of Ship Creek** to learn more about the creek's habitat. The Alaska Railroad also completed a **Survey of the Streams/Seeps on the Northern Boundary** of the railroad property. The survey looks at possible contamination sources and local hydrology. Also, the Alaska Railroad completed a literature search of past work done on the property. This review included over 1,800 documents and 8,000 analytical data points. The report of this review, called the **Site Background Report**, describes known and potential contamination sources. The report also identifies future work that needs to be done to fill

gaps in the data. This report will help us make best use of existing information before doing future investigations.

All of this work will help set the stage for the **Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)** next summer. The RI/FS will study the nature and extent of contamination, and possible ways to clean it up, if needed.

EPA will coordinate with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) throughout the project.

Current Schedule

- <> October 18, 2004 – Railroad delivered Site Background Report to EPA and ADEC
- <> November 29, 2004 – Railroad delivers Ship Creek Habitat Assessment and Northern Boundary Survey to EPA and ADEC
- <> November-January – Railroad, EPA, and ADEC discuss Site Background Report and data gaps
- <> April-May 2005 – Railroad delivers Draft Remedial Investigation Work Plan to EPA and ADEC
- <> July-October 2005 – Railroad conducts RI/FS with EPA oversight

About the Site

The federal government transferred the Alaska Railroad to the state-owned Alaska Railroad Corporation in 1985. The Alaska Railroad Corporation owns the property known as Anchorage Terminal Reserve. Anchorage Terminal Reserve includes a rail yard and other properties leased to tenants. The area covers about 600 acres. Much of the land is near Ship Creek, in an industrial area of Anchorage. It is bordered by Cook Inlet to the west, Elmendorf Air Force Base to the north, the Mountain View community to the east, and downtown Anchorage to the south.

The rail yard includes a track system, repair buildings, a fueling area, a steaming rack, warehouses, and offices. Activities at the rail yard have included fueling, painting, steam cleaning, freight loading, and maintenance work on locomotives and rail cars.

Properties outside the rail yard, leased to tenants, have been used for many different types of activities. These include power plants, trucking and transit operations, fuel storage, auto salvage, and many others. There are about 137 parcels under lease.

Environmental problems have been documented at both the rail yard and the properties outside the rail yard. Concerns have included solid waste handling, hazardous waste storage, seeps to Ship Creek, spills, and elevated contaminant levels in soils, groundwater, and sediments. The contamination has the potential to pose a threat to human health or the environment.

Contacts For More Information

Jacques Gusmano

Superfund Project Manager, Anchorage
gusmano.jacques@epa.gov
 (907) 271-1271

Howard Orlean

RCRA Project Manager, Seattle
orlean.howard@epa.gov
 (206) 553-2851 or 1-800-424-4372 x2851

Andrea Lindsay

Community Involvement Coordinator, Seattle
lindsay.andrea@epa.gov
 (206) 553-1896 or 1-800-424-4372 x1896



Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, please contact Andrea Lindsay. TTY users, please call the Federal Relay System at 800-877-8339.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Sixth Avenue, ETPA-081
Seattle, Washington 98101-1128

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pre-Sorted Standard
Postage and Fees Paid
U.S. EPA
Permit No. G-35
Seattle, WA

***Anchorage Terminal Reserve
Community Involvement Plan
Anchorage, Alaska
November 2004***



<> *Working with you for a better environment* <>