

# SUPERFUND

## Fact Sheet

### ARCTIC SURPLUS SITE

Fairbanks, Alaska



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

September 2000

## What's Happening

*This fact sheet is a general update on the Arctic Surplus Superfund Site. It provides background information about the site, clean up activities, and the status of negotiations with potentially responsible parties. While no new action is underway, this fact sheet describes the site's history and what you can expect at Arctic Surplus in the future.*

## Site Background

Arctic Surplus Salvage Yard Superfund Site is a privately owned salvage yard located about six miles southeast of Fairbanks. It occupies a 24-acre area on the northeast corner of Badger Road and Old Richardson Highway.

In 1988, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation conducted a site inspection and detected significant levels of metal in the soil. Piles of bulk asbestos and thousands of drums of liquid waste were also found. The on-site groundwater was contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE) and soil was contaminated with industrial solvents, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and lead. Based on this information, the site was identified as a significant risk to human health and the environment. It was placed on the National Priorities List as a Superfund site in 1990.

The Department of Defense (DOD) owned the site from 1944-1947 and created a small landfill on the property. Salvage operations were conducted by a private company from 1959-1989, when the property accepted military

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Clean Up Actions Completed To Date

The following short-term clean-up actions have been taken to reduce the immediate risk by addressing soil and ground water contamination:

- Removal of 22,200 pounds of asbestos and 75 gallons of the pesticide Chlordane.
- Fencing of the site.
- Disposal of the contents of 1,700 drums of liquid waste. Removal and containment of highly contaminated soils. Removal and disposal of additional asbestos.
- Stabilization of areas contaminated with high levels of lead and PCBs. Investigation of potential waste burial areas and sampling. Ongoing sampling of on and off-site wells every six months to monitor for groundwater impacts.
- Clean up of PCBs and lead-contaminated soil along the Badger Road right-of-way.
- Removal and proper disposal of PCB transformers and incinerator ash containing dioxin.
- Clean up and removal of 3,000 empty drums that contained various waste. Disposal of contaminated cleaning water.

The following long-term cleanup actions have been taken to permanently clean up and contain contamination across the entire site:

- Beginning in 1992, the Defense Logistics Center -- acting on behalf of the potentially responsible parties -- conducted an investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the site.
- In 1995, EPA selected a cleanup remedy based on the results of this investigation. The remedy includes the following activities:
  - on-site treatment of PCB contaminated soils;
  - solidification of lead contaminated soils;
  - distribution of newly treated residual soil over the old landfill area and containing the entire area with a cap of clean soil.



(Continued from Page 1)

equipment and materials, asbestos insulation, and various oils. Battery cracking and transformer burning also took place to recover metals.

The Tenana and Chena Rivers flow approximately one mile away from the site and could become polluted by contaminants. A shallow aquifer, which underlies the Tenana-Chena flood plain, is the primary source of drinking water for residents living near the site. The 1,000 residents living within a 3-mile radius of the site are dependent on private domestic wells or bottled water.

### Current Status

About 10 years of groundwater monitoring data has been collected for the Arctic Surplus site. Except for two samples found in an off-site well with low levels of TCE contamination, no off-site migration of chemicals has been traced to wastes stored on-site. A health assessment for the local area suggests that Arctic Surplus is not currently a risk to the local population. Today, the remaining health risks are associated with soil contamination inside the fenced area.

Negotiations to implement long-term cleanup actions are continuing between EPA and the US Department of Justice. One of the major difficulties with these negotiations is that the US Department of Defense, who is one of the potentially responsible parties, has had difficulty budgeting funds for cleanup.

### Next Steps

When negotiations are completed, EPA and the responsible parties will sign a formal agreement called a Consent Decree. Work on an engineering design for the cleanup action can begin as soon as the terms of the Consent Decree are finalized and funding is available.

Part of the long-term cleanup plan is to periodically monitor the site. Also, a long-term monitoring program will be needed for the network of wells in the area. This work will ensure that the proposed cleanup remains protective of human health and the environment.

If you are interested in learning more about Arctic Surplus, you are encouraged to review the material in the Administrative Record for the Site. It contains all documents related to decisions and actions. The record can be viewed at the following information repository locations:

The Defense Logistics Agency  
Building T-5001  
Fort Wainwright, Alaska  
(DRM on Badger Road)

Superfund Records Center HW-078  
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 553-4494

**If you have questions, please contact:**

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EPA can also be reached toll free at (800) 424-4372

To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities. Please contact EPA at one of the numbers above.



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

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Region 10 (ECO-081)  
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*Fairbanks, Alaska*