

SUPERFUND

Fact Sheet

ARCTIC SURPLUS



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JUNE 2003

IMPROVING THE ARCTIC SURPLUS CLEANUP PLAN

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is making changes to the hazardous waste cleanup plan for the Arctic Surplus Superfund site in Fairbanks, Alaska. This fact sheet describes the changes and the environmental cleanup work that will be done this summer.

WHY IS EPA CHANGING THE CLEANUP PLAN?

EPA is making some changes to the cleanup plan because recent sampling shows that there is less highly contaminated soil than was anticipated. In addition, EPA wants to improve some aspects of the cleanup. The Agency is preparing written changes to the plan in a document called an *Explanation of Significant Differences*, or ESD. The new cleanup plan will be just as protective of human health and the environment as the previous plan.

WHAT CHANGES WILL BE MADE?

EPA plans to treat more soil contaminated with lower levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) than had been planned. Soil contaminated with 10 to 50 parts per million (ppm) of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) will now be solidified and stabilized, and then placed in an on-site hazardous waste containment area. Soil with PCB levels exceeding 50 ppm will be taken to an off-site disposal facility.

EPA also plans to improve the design of the cover that will be placed over the on-site containment area. One layer of the cover will now be a geo-synthetic clay liner, which will do a better job of preventing damage from freeze-thaw cycles. EPA plans to change the shape of the cover as well. It will now be flat, rather than mounded, to allow certain types of future reuse of the containment area, such as parking or storage.

CLEANUP MOVES FORWARD

This summer, the U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) will finish cleaning up contaminated soil at the Arctic Surplus site. In addition to this work, DLA will install a new fence around the on-site containment area to keep people from coming into contact with contaminated soil and to restrict future use of that portion of the property. DLA will also collect and analyze groundwater samples to make sure cleanup goals are met.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

After DLA completes soil cleanup, most of the environmental cleanup goals for the site will have been met. Also, the Department of Defense will do a final screening for military explosive devices.

When these activities are done, EPA will send out a fact sheet summarizing the results. If you would like to join the mailing list for the Arctic Surplus site, please fill out the form on page 3.

SITE BACKGROUND

The Arctic Surplus Superfund site is a 24-acre, privately owned salvage yard about six miles southeast of Fairbanks at the northeast corner of Badger Road and Old Richardson Highway. A private company used the property as a salvage yard, bringing military equipment, asbestos insulation, and various oils to the site. The company caused extensive PCB and lead contamination by cracking batteries and burning transformers to recover metals.

In 1988, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) found piles of asbestos and thousands of drums of liquid waste at the site. Groundwater in one location was contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE). Soil was contaminated with industrial solvents, PCBs, lead, and other heavy metals.

In 1990, EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List, EPA's registry of the nation's most contaminated hazardous waste sites. In the early 1990's, thousands of drums of liquid waste, asbestos, transformers, and battery casings were removed from the site and properly disposed of. When this work was completed, contaminated soil remained at the site.

In 1995, after extensive study, EPA signed a Record of Decision (ROD), which identified the cleanup plan for the site. The plan called for PCB solvent extraction and stabilization, solidification, and consolidation of contaminated soil.

A recent health assessment for the local area indicates that groundwater flowing through the Arctic Surplus property does not pose a risk to people or animals. On-site groundwater contamination has not migrated to off-site wells. Site soil will not pose health risks once the soil is dug up, placed in the containment area and capped.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

EPA encourages citizens to learn more about Arctic Surplus by reviewing the Administrative Record for the site. This record contains all documents regarding decisions and actions at the site. You can review the Administrative Record at:

The Defense Logistics Agency
Building T-5010 (look for DRMO sign)
¼ Mile Badger Road
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703-0028

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

To speak directly with site contacts, call:

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*For people with disabilities, contact:
Deborah Neal at 800 424-4372, x0115, if you have
special requests for reasonable accommodations.
TTY users may call the Federal Relay Service at
800 877-8339 and give the operator Deborah
Neal's phone number.*

Join Our Mailing List

To join the mailing list for the Arctic Surplus site, please fill out the form below and return it to:

Deborah Neal
U.S. EPA Region 10, ECO-081
1200 Sixth Avenue Seattle, WA 98101-1128

Name _____

Company (optional) _____

Title (optional) _____

Address _____

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