

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



Anchorage Terminal Reserve, Anchorage, Alaska

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

July 2006

An environmental study is now going on at the Anchorage Terminal Reserve Site. The 600-acre site, owned by the Alaska Railroad Corporation, includes a rail yard and other properties leased to tenants. Some environmental problems have been documented. Sampling, other technical work, and efforts to involve the local community are now in progress. For a site status report, read on.

Environmental Work Continues at Anchorage Terminal Reserve

Collecting Samples:

The Alaska Railroad has completed the first round of environmental sampling at the site. Samples were taken from August to November 2005 with EPA oversight. Work included:

- seep sampling (6 locations)
- surface water sampling (14 locations)
- sediment sampling (32 locations)
- surface soil sampling (61 locations)
- subsurface soil sampling (68 locations)
- groundwater sampling (96 locations)

Earlier this year, the laboratory data were validated. Some soil and sediment samples did not meet quality assurance requirements and were collected again in May 2006. A second round of groundwater sampling was done in May and June 2006.

Other Work:

Other work to help study environmental conditions at the site has included:

- sending a survey to lease property tenants to locate water supply wells;
- studying how the tide influences groundwater at monitoring wells near Cook Inlet;
- identifying site areas that are paved, forested, or have bare ground;
- visually assessing 6 lease properties that were not included in EPA's inspections in 2001.

(See area map on page 2)

The Findings:

The Alaska Railroad and EPA are in the early stages of reviewing and interpreting the data. Areas without enough data will be sampled late this summer. The data and findings will be compiled in a **Remedial Investigation Report**. The report will outline:

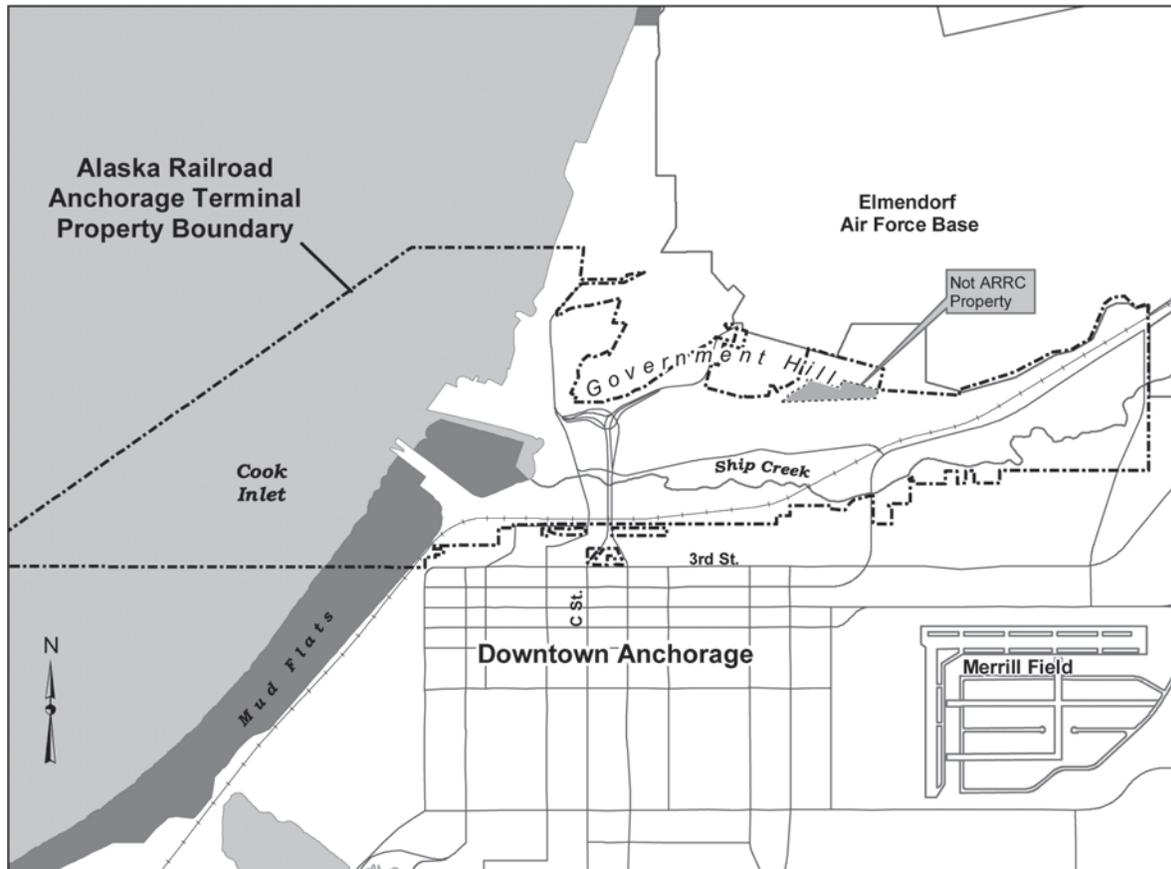
- contaminant pathways to Ship Creek;
- the nature and extent of known and potential contamination sources; and
- potential risks to humans and the environment.

An Open House to give citizens an update on site work and to share initial project findings will be held later this year. Watch for more details about the Open House in the coming months. The full report should be available in late 2007.

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(continued on page 2)

Site Overview, Anchorage Reserve ARRC



An environmental investigation is under way now at the Anchorage Terminal Reserve.

Anchorage Waterways Council Gets Technical Assistance Grant

The Alaska Railroad Corporation has awarded a Technical Assistant Grant to the Anchorage Waterways Council. The grant program is designed to promote meaningful public participation. The funding – up to \$50,000 – will be used by the Council to hire a technical advisor to help review and comment on site documents. The funds also will help the group communicate about the site investigation and any cleanup options. The award was made after a competitive application process.

Site Background

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.

(continued on page 3)

Site Background *continued*

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.

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.

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For More Information

Documents

EPA maintains “information repositories” to give the public access to site documents (*see locations at right*). Documents that provide technical details about the site work include: Site Background Report, Remedial Action Objectives Technical Memorandum, and Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan. These documents, and others, can be found on the website below or at these locations:

Alaska Resources Library & Information Services
University of Alaska, Anchorage Library Building
Anchorage Terminal Reserve Information Repository
3211 Providence Drive, Suite 111
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-272-7547

EPA Region 10
Records Center, 7th Floor
1200 6th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101-1128
206-553-4494

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Website

www.epa.gov/r10earth
Click on *Index*. Click on *A* for *Anchorage Terminal Reserve*.



If you need materials in an alternative format, please call Andrea Lindsay for reasonable accommodation: 800-424-4372 x1896. TTY: 800-877-8339.



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Anchorage, Alaska
July 2006*



This **EPA Fact Sheet** updates you on environmental work at the **Anchorage Terminal Reserve** near Ship Creek..

Inside you can read about:

- site studies and work in progress
- technical funding awarded to a local group
- where to get more information