

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



Anchorage Terminal Reserve, Anchorage, Alaska

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

July 2004

EPA, Alaska Railroad Agree to Study Contamination

EPA (THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY) AND THE ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION HAVE announced a final legal agreement. It is called an Administrative Order on Consent. Under the agreement, the Alaska Railroad will study its **Anchorage Terminal Reserve** property, with EPA oversight. The Railroad will look for potential threats to human health and the environment. They will conduct a *Remedial Investigation* to determine the nature and extent of contamination. They also will do a *Feasibility Study* to look at options for cleaning up the site, if necessary.

EPA accepted public comments on the agreement. The original 15-day comment period was extended another 15 days, based on public request. It ended June 19, 2004. Two comment letters were received. No changes resulted from the comments. All comments and written responses to comments are available for public review. They can be found at the local information repository in Anchorage, the EPA office in Seattle, or on the website. See the back page for addresses to each location.

Work Begins: Learning More About the Contamination

Contamination is present at the Anchorage Terminal Reserve. This site is located on 600 acres of Railroad land at the north end of downtown Anchorage. Ship Creek, a popular fishing area, runs through the site.

Now that the agreement is in place, plans are moving forward to learn more about contamination at the Anchorage Terminal Reserve. The goal is a thorough study of the contamination. The results will be used to select any cleanup actions that might be needed to protect human health and the environment. EPA will keep the community involved and informed throughout the process.

The work is getting started right away. This summer, the Railroad will do a literature survey and sampling in Ship Creek to get current data. They will also sample along the bluff at the north end of the site to see if any pollution is coming into the site from that area. These activities are called "interim actions." The Railroad is also compiling

Want to share information or ideas about the site with EPA? Want to help shape the Community Involvement Plan? Sign up for a personal interview or send us a letter. See details on page 3.

existing information about environmental conditions at that location in order to prepare a Site Background Report.

The work at this site will probably take several years. Over time, with EPA oversight, the Railroad will:

- identify contaminated areas of concern
- assess the level and extent of contamination
- evaluate risks to the public and environment
- determine needed cleanup levels
- if possible, speed up work at specific spots to allow reuse of the site

2004 Time Line

Milestone

Estimated Timing

Ship Creek Literature Review and Ship Creek Surface-Water & Sediment Assessment Report submitted to EPA	Middle of July
Interim Action Report submitted to EPA	End of August
Work Plan for Northern Boundary Investigation submitted to EPA.	End of August
Site Background Report submitted to EPA	Middle of October
EPA's draft Community Involvement Plan provided for public review.	Fall
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan submitted to EPA	Middle of January

Get Involved

Why become involved? You can affect the decision-making process. Input from local citizens will help EPA make decisions that will affect the community. Listed below are some ways to get involved.

Help Shape the Community Involvement Plan

Input from community members will help EPA develop a Community Involvement Plan. The plan will spell out ways EPA will keep the local community involved in and informed about the Anchorage Terminal Reserve site. The draft plan should be out for public review by this fall.

If you would like to help shape the Community Involvement Plan, or if you have information to share about the site, EPA would like to hear from you. Do you have knowledge about activities at this site that EPA should know about? Do you have concerns about the site? Would you like to be involved in the future? How? What is the best way to provide you with information?

EPA will hold personal interviews with anyone interested. The interviews can happen in person or by phone. They will provide a chance to share concerns, information, and ideas about the best ways to involve citizens in site activities. In-person interviews will take place in Anchorage on August 23 and 24, 2004. To set up a phone or in-person interview, call Vivian Kinnaird at (907) 257-5000 ext. 232, by August 13, 2004.

You can also share information in writing. EPA will not respond directly to these letters. Anonymous letters will be accepted. Write to Andrea Lindsay, EPA, 1200 6th Ave, ECO-081, Seattle, WA 98101 before August 27, 2004.

Visit the 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.

Now through August 9, ARLIS will house the repository at 3150 C Street, Suite 100 in Anchorage. From August 9 to September 7, ARLIS will be

closed during its move. Repository materials will be available in Anchorage at the University of Alaska Consortium Library at 3211 Providence Drive.

Beginning September 8, ARLIS will house the repository at its new Anchorage location at 3211 Providence Drive.

Stay Tuned for an Open House

Later this year, EPA will host an open house. This will be a chance to informally meet project representatives, learn about the environmental activities at the site, and share suggestions and concerns. EPA will announce the open house in a mailing and in the local paper.

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, which 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, 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 leased parcels.

Both the rail yard and the properties outside the rail yard have had many documented environmental problems. Concerns have included solid-waste handling, hazardous waste storage, seeps to Ship Creek, spills, dumping, and elevated contaminant levels in soils, groundwater, and sediments. The studies being conducted will determine whether the contamination could pose a threat to human health or the environment.

For More Information, Contact:

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 Superfund Project Manager, Anchorage
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 (907) 271-1271

Howard Orlean
 RCRA Project Manager, Seattle
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 (206) 553-2851 or 1-800-424-4372 x2851

Andrea Lindsay
 US EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
 1200 Sixth Avenue, ECO-081
 Seattle, Washington 98101-1128
lindsay.andrea@epa.gov
 (206) 553-1896 or 1-800-424-4372 x1896

Get on the Mailing List

If you have a change or want to be added to our mailing list for updates about this site, fill out the form below or contact Andrea Lindsay via e-mail. People on our mailing list get brief updates from EPA every couple of months. Please mail this form to request changes to our mailing list to Andrea Lindsay at the address at left or contact her e-mail address.

- Remove me from the mailing list.
- Make changes to my address as follows.
- Add me to your e-mail list and delete me from the regular mailing list.
- Add me to your e-mail list and keep me on the regular mailing list.

[See document locations on back page]

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Name _____

Address _____

Former address [if changed] _____

E-mail _____

Anchorage Terminal Reserve Mailing List



United States Environmental Protection Agency

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

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***Anchorage Terminal Reserve
Cleanup Study Fact Sheet
Anchorage, Alaska
July 2004***

THIS EPA FACT SHEET PROVIDES AN UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES AT THE **ANCHORAGE TERMINAL RESERVE** in Anchorage, Alaska. Inside you can read about:

- A final legal agreement between EPA and Alaska Railroad
- Plans for officials to learn more about contamination at the site
- Opportunities to have a voice in this environmental project
- Ways to get more information

Review the Documents

Documents about this site can be viewed at:

Alaska Resources Library and Information Services
Anchorage Terminal Reserve Information Repository
3150 C Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99503-3916 (to August 9; see page 2)
(907) 272-7547

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

Visit the Website

www.epa.gov/r10earth

Click on Index. Click on A for Anchorage Terminal Reserve.



Alternative formats

are available upon request. Please call Andrea Lindsay to request reasonable accommodation: 1-800-424-4372 x1896. TTY: 1-800-877-8339.