

AMAKNAK FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE

OCTOBER 2020 ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE



CALENDAR

RESCHEDULED VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, November 17, 2020
6 pm – 8 pm

Pick Up Presentation Materials:
Unalaska Public Library or
<http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Library/Reports-and-Studies/...under Environmental Cleanup>

Teleconference Line:
1-213-357-2812
ID: 151 645 311#

RESCHEDULED VIRTUAL DROP-IN OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, November 17, 2020
12 pm – 3 pm

Call:
1-907-753-2680

Text:
1-907-201-3108

Microsoft Teams Live Chat:
<https://rb.gy/fwqqxx>

CONTACT

Rena Flint

Amaknak FUDS Project Manager

Rena.B.Flint@usace.army.mil

1-907-753-2680

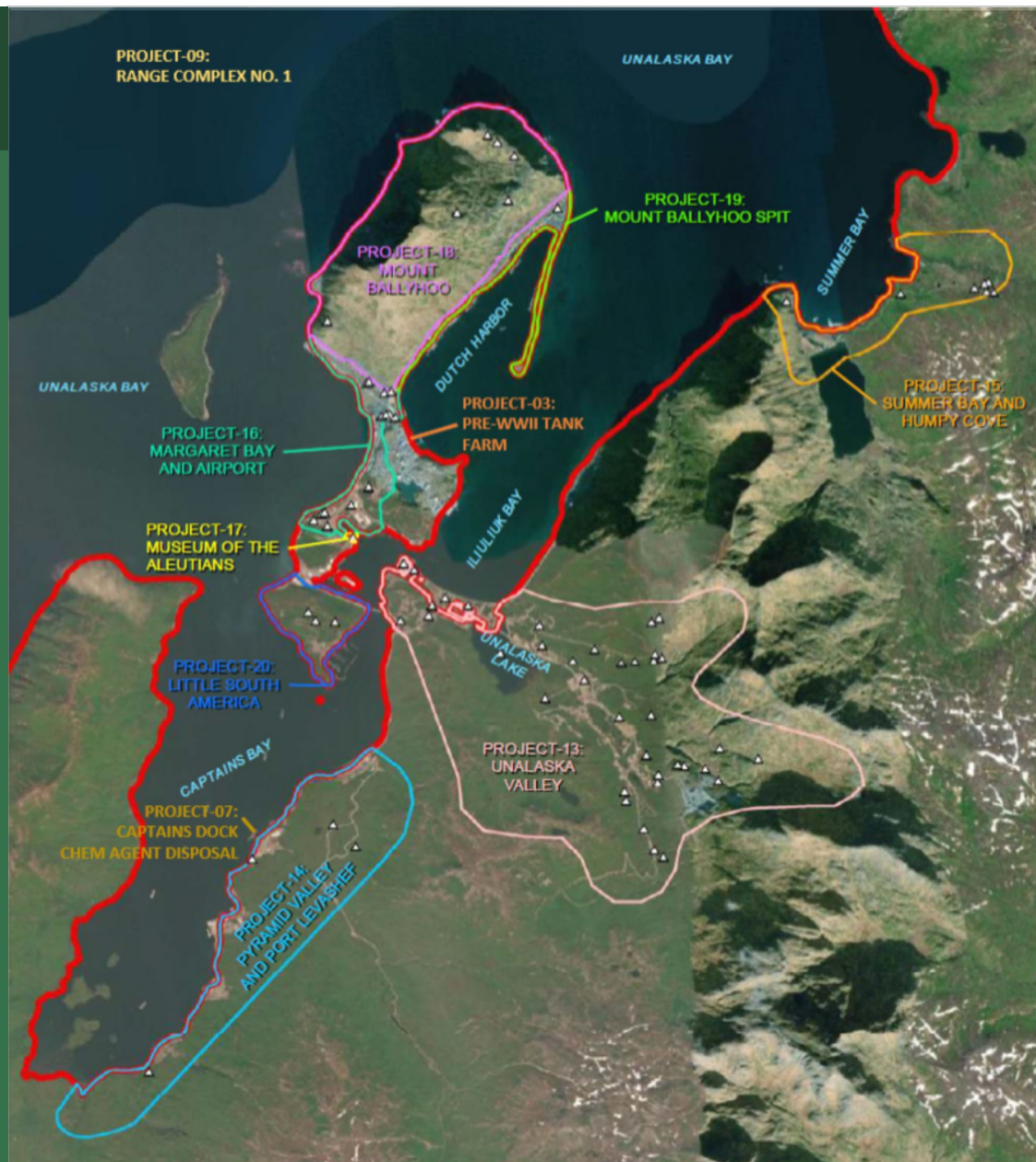


Photo 1. Amaknak FUDS Projects

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (USACE) is distributing this newsletter update to engage with the community on the ongoing environmental cleanup and remediation efforts being conducted under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) for the Amaknak Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS).

This newsletter presents updates on restoration activities completed or planned at various projects within the Amaknak FUDS property, as well as opportunities for the public to get involved.

COVID-19 CHECK-IN



USACE staff hopes that the residents of Unalaska are weathering the COVID crisis well and remaining healthy. Despite the United States' ongoing battle with the novel coronavirus, our team is safely and successfully advancing environmental cleanup activities including through the FUDS Program and the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP). We hope to share some of these successes with the Unalaska community through this newsletter.



Photos 2 & 3. Qawalangin Tribe Debris Removal in Unalaska Valley, July 2020

QAWALANGIN TRIBE OF UNALASKA

NATIVE AMERICAN LANDS ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM IN UNALASKA

In recognition of the U.S. government's trust responsibility to Tribes and the government's need to address Tribal concerns on the effects of past military operations, the Department of Defense created NALEMP. Since the program's inception, Congress has inserted a provision in the DoD Appropriations Act requiring the DoD to devote funds annually to mitigate these environmental impacts.

The emphasis on maximum tribal participation recognizes Alaska Native and Native American Tribes' sovereignties by providing Tribes the opportunity to investigate and remove hazards from their lands and build economic capacity by providing valuable employment and training opportunities within the community.



Photo 4. Success Story

Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska was proactive at overcoming the challenges of COVID-19. This spring, QTU modified their Cooperative Agreement with the Department of Defense to be able to conduct work accomplishable in the face of COVID-19. They determined remote work via Agamgik Bay was not possible under CDC guidelines of social distancing. Instead QTU was able to modify their cooperative agreement to conduct identified work close to town: the removal of WWII building debris from Unalaska Valley. The increased effort towards this safety hazard is a huge success.

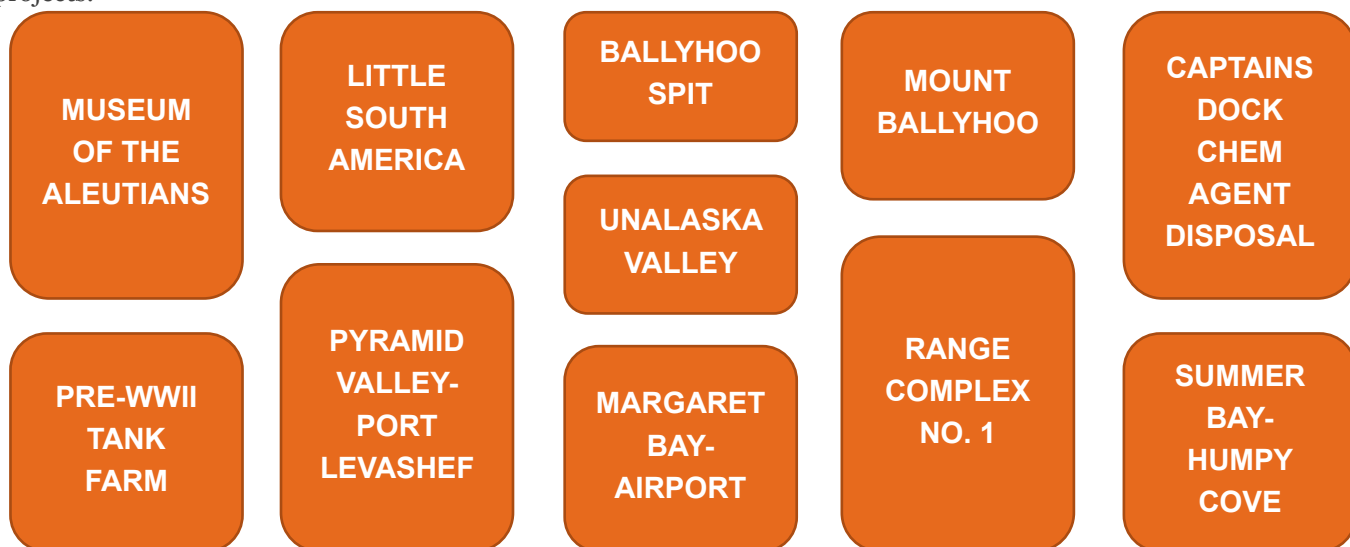
Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska in partnership with Department of Defense successfully:

- Proactively modified CA to safely perform work,
- Overcame COVID-19 challenges, and
- Mitigated safety hazards in town from the Formerly Used Defense Site.

IMPROVEMENTS TO FUDS MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Due to the military buildup in Unalaska in WWII, there were hundreds of individual sites with environmental impacts. For example, many buildings each had their own heating oil tank. The USACE began debris cleanup in Unalaska in 1984. In 1993, USACE commenced investigation and remediation work for chemical contamination, and subsequently began work concerning containerized hazardous waste in 1994. Extensive investigative and remedial activities have been performed, but there is still more left to do.

In order for us to improve our management efficiency to address remaining environmental impacts and to improve our engagement with the community, USACE grouped the remaining Amaknak FUDS concerns into projects organized by geographic regions (listed in the graphic below). We reorganized the existing project to allow for more effective management of the remaining environmental projects.



USACE closed 9 sites with cleanup complete determinations from 2017 to 2019. We need your help to prioritize the remaining impacted sites.

Community members looking to learn more about ongoing cleanup activities have several opportunities to get involved! Help us prioritize the remaining restoration needs of the abovementioned sites by joining the Restoration Advisory Board or submitting comments or concerns at the upcoming virtual public meeting and open house.

2019 RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD ASSESSMENT

In summer of 2019, USACE performed a study to assess community interest in establishing a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) in the Unalaska area. The purpose of a RAB is to provide the government with community input on environmental restoration at the FUDS sites. A RAB, consisting of 5-10 members, is advisory and is co-chaired by a representative of the USACE and a public citizen. Community members function in a voluntary capacity for one to two-year terms.

Due to the positive response to the community interviews, USACE representatives will be initiating the formation of a RAB at the **Tuesday, November 17, 2020** public meeting and virtual drop-in open house event. Attendees will learn about the purpose of a RAB and responsibilities of RAB members in addition to project updates regarding several sites within the Amaknak FUDS. RAB membership applications will be available at the public meeting. Information about joining the meeting by phone or computer is listed on the first and last pages of this newsletter. Community members can reach out to FUDS Project Manager, Rena Flint, to learn more or submit questions prior to the public meeting.



Please help us by forwarding this newsletter to other members of the community!

The abovementioned sites are in various phases of environmental cleanup including Interim Risk Management, Removal Action Construction, Remedial Action Operation, Long Term Management, and Project Closeout (Phases in orange in the figure to the right).

RESCHEDULED VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING AND DROP-IN OPEN HOUSE

Submit questions, comments or concerns anytime.
Email: Rena.B.Flint@usace.army.mil, Call: 1-907-753-2680,
Call or Text: 1-907-201-3108

Drop in to talk to project team members one-on-one or chat in a group forum during a virtual open house:

Tuesday, November 17th, 2020, 12 pm – 3 pm
Call: 1-907-753-2680 or Text: 1-907-201-3108
Live Chat: <https://rb.gy/fwqqxx>

Attend a live, virtual public meeting to hear about project updates and learn more about the establishment of the Amaknak FUDS RAB:

Tuesday, November 17th, 2020, 6 pm – 8 pm
Conference Line: 1-213-357-2812
Conference ID: 151 645 311#

Hardcopy presentation materials and electronic copies via CDs will be available for pick up before November 17 at the Unalaska Public Library. Or an electronic copy may be downloaded before November 17 from the USACE-Alaska District Public Affairs website: <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Library/Reports-and-Studies/>
...under Environmental Cleanup



LEARN MORE



Past information on the Amaknak FUDS is available at the Unalaska Public Library.

Unalaska Public Library
64 Eleanor Drive
Unalaska, AK 99685
(907) 581-5060

Information is also available from the USACE-Alaska District Public Affairs Office by phone at 907-753-2520 or by email at public.affairs3@usace.army.mil.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP PROCESS

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

SITE INSPECTION

INTERIM RISK MANAGEMENT

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

FEASIBILITY STUDY

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

REMEDIAL DESIGN/REMOVAL
ACTION DESIGN

REMEDIAL ACTION
CONSTRUCTION/REMOVAL
ACTION CONSTRUCTION

REMEDIAL ACTION OPERATION

LONG TERM MANAGEMENT

PROJECT CLOSEOUT