



The Former Galena FOL Environmental Update



Published to keep the Galena community informed of the Air Force's environmental cleanup progress | Vol 1, Issue 2 | November 2011

Looking Back on 2011 and Ahead to 2012

2011 was a productive year for the Air Force Real Property Agency's environmental restoration program for Galena, AK. We will continue the momentum in 2012 as the environmental cleanup continues. This issue contains updates on activities completed to date and plans for next year.

In Memoriam: Norm (Buckets) Burgett 1934-2011

Condolences go out to the family and friends of Norm (Buckets) Burgett of Galena, who passed away November 1, 2011 in Fairbanks.



Buckets was born in Indianapolis and joined the U.S. Air Force in 1952. At his request he was stationed at Galena Air Force Base in 1954. There he met his wife of 56 years, Cecelia, and together they had eight children. Buckets was devoted to their 25 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Buckets had several careers throughout his life, working much of that time at Galena AFB where he was actively involved in the Air Force environmental program.

He was a wealth of knowledge for the Air Force restoration program and a valued member of the Galena Restoration Advisory Board. He will be greatly missed.

Galena FOL Restoration Contacts

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Interim Removal Action

This year, the Air Force removed 17,700 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated soils from four sites – the former Wilderness Hall (SS005), the former Birchwood Hangar (SS014), the former truck fill-stand (SS017) and the former RAPCON above-ground storage tank area (AST1569). The Air Force also built a pedestrian walkway for Galena residents and students prior to excavation of sites SS014 and SS017 to ensure the safety of pedestrians walking between the school and the airport buildings during the interim removal actions.



(Top) AFRPA completed Interim Removal Actions on four sites this year, and (above) conducted soil sampling on the sites.

In addition, the Air Force completed excavation activities at SS005 prior to the students' return for the 2011/2012 school year to avoid any disruption to the community, and to ensure the safety of the Alaskan students who rely on the Galena community for their educational needs.

Feedback, Comments, and More Information

- I would like more information about the environmental cleanup of former Galena FOL.
- I would like more information about the Restoration Advisory Board for former Galena FOL.

Please let us know how we are doing. Your comments and opinions are welcome and assist the Air Force in providing the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding the cleanup of former Galena FOL. Fill out this form and send it to the address listed below.

Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms.) _____

Organization _____

Street address _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Additional Comments _____

Detach and mail this section in a stamped envelope to: AFRPA/Public Affairs, 2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 121, San Antonio, TX 78236-9821

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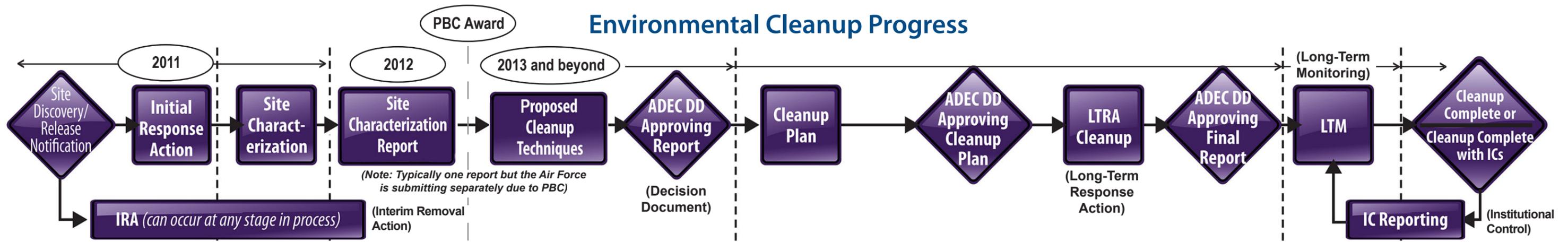
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Technicians took more than 4,500 soil and groundwater samples combined during two field seasons. The Air Force is now analyzing the data and drafting nearly 60 Site Investigation, Site Characterization and Remedial Investigation reports.



Field Investigations Complete

In 2011, the Air Force completed the field investigations started in 2010 to characterize the nature & extent and boundaries of contamination, if present.

The scope of the work done during the last two field seasons includes:

- 3,631 soil samples collected
- 1,175 groundwater samples collected
- 856 boring locations installed
- 72 new monitoring wells installed

For the remainder of 2011 and into 2012, the Air Force will continue to develop and review the field season documentation, evaluate the data, conduct risk assessments and draft reports summarizing the results of investigation activities.

Performance Based Remediation Contract Update

As stated in the last newsletter, the Air Force is using Performance Based Contracts for cleanup and closure of all active Galena sites to ensure the land is returned to the community as quickly as possible.

- The Air Force released a Request for Information to contractors in June
- Interested contractors visited Galena in July, then provided feedback and questions to the Air Force
- The Air Force is currently reviewing those responses and conducting preliminary planning for the Request for Proposal
- The Air Force will tentatively release a draft Request for Proposal to contractors in early 2012
- The Air Force tentatively expects to award the contract in November 2012

Following the PBR contract award, the Air Force will continue its presence at Galena to ensure the contractor acknowledges and addresses community and regulatory concerns, and will play an active role in continued environmental restoration activities through site closure. The Air Force Real Property Agency manages and oversees the environmental cleanup and property transfers at the former Galena FOL in accordance with Base Realignment and Closure law. AFRPA will continue to partner with the Galena community to promote environmental awareness and economic opportunities for sustainable development.

Questions about the PBC process may be directed to Mr. Al Weilbacher, 210-395-8239 or adolph.weilbacher@us.af.mil.



Soil remains stockpiled at the Campion air strip until the landfarm can be completed.

Landfarm Set for Construction

One of the many challenges of the environmental cleanup at Galena is the limited options available for remediating soil in a harsh climate and remote area.

One of the remediation options being used by the Air Force includes finding hot spots of soil contamination, removing it, and transporting it to a landfarm for treatment. Any clean soil encountered during excavation of hot spots is set aside for reuse, and open excavations are filled with backfill purchased from the community.

A wetlands delineation survey found much of the previously proposed landfarm area was considered wetlands, delaying construction of the landfarm this year. Building on wetlands creates regulatory issues and potential drainage problems when peat and moss are removed.

In the meantime, contaminated soil is stockpiled at the Campion air strip. The Air Force is looking at a new landfarm location near the air strip, and will begin construction on the 9 acre facility next year. Once completed, the Air Force will relocate the stockpiled soil to the landfarm facility and treat it so it will be available for reuse.

Still to Come in 2012

In the last issue of this newsletter, we previewed three actions planned for the remainder of 2011. Below is an update on those actions.

ACTION 1: Remove abandoned Air Force equipment. The Air Force removed the old, abandoned equipment.

ACTION 2: Perform supplemental investigation near the former munitions sites. The Air Force will begin the Galena Military Munitions Response Program field work in Summer 2012. They will survey if munitions exist in the ordnance disposal area, safety arc, small arms range, historic ordnance storage buildings, Southwest landfill, suspected ordnance burial site, and rocket container site north of Million Gallon Hill. If munitions are found, the Air Force will tag and remove them and conduct sampling in the area. Tree cutting will begin in early spring, with the investigation being conducted throughout the summer.

ACTION 3: Optimize the remediation systems currently in place. The Air Force completed sampling and testing to evaluate the current biovent and soil vapor extraction remediation systems. During the winter, the Air Force will review the results to see how effective the current systems have been in cleaning up the soil.

Future Resources Needed

Once the performance based contract is awarded, the selected contractor will require many resources in the community. We will continue to need community support in the form of housing, vehicles, equipment and labor. The Air Force will provide more information as soon as it is available.