



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

ENGINEERING FIELD ACTIVITY, NORTHWEST
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
3505 NW ANDERSON HILL ROAD
SILVERDALE, WA 98383-9130

5090/NARL
09ERI5/3014
28 JANUARY 91

NCSDF 5.601
~~AK 1.40~~
~~AK 5.37~~
AK 5.2
927

Mr. Mark Ader
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Mr. Ader:

Your letter of 20 November 1991 requested information to conduct a HRS evaluation for Naval Arctic Research Laboratory (NARL), Point Barrow, Alaska. You indicated that the scoring is required for all facilities listed on the Federal Agency Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket and providing this information is required by the responsible party.

Recently, I responded to a related letter from your Alaska Operations Office in Anchorage. Enclosed is a copy of that letter. In that letter, we advised EPA that we feel that NARL was improperly included on the docket.

The current studies conducted at the facility and possible cleanup actions are pursuant to a land exchange agreement between the Department of Interior, Department of the Navy, and the Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation, the current property owner. In accordance with the agreement, the Navy is pursuing cleanup options for contaminated soils at a former dry cleaning plant and at Imikpuk Lake. We have provided your office with copies of our studies at NARL regarding the agreement.

If you have any additional concerns or questions regarding this facility, contact Mr. Kevin Stigile or Mr. Bela Varga of my staff at (206) 476-5775.

Sincerely

V. L. Vasaitis
Head, Environmental
Management Department
By Direction of the
Commanding Officer

Enclosure:

(1) EFA NW ltr ser 09ERI4/3815 of 6 JAN 92

Received

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3505 NW ANDERSON HILL ROAD
SILVERDALE, WA 98383-9130

5090/NARL BARROW
09ERI4/3815
6 January 1992

Mr. Alvin L. Ewing
U. S. Environmental Protection
Agency, Region 10,
Alaska Operations Office
Room 537, Federal Building
222 W. 7th Avenue, #19
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Dear Mr. Ewing,

This letter responds to your letter of December 3, 1991, in which you notified us that two Naval facilities located in Alaska (Elson Lagoon and Northeast Cape, St. Lawrence Island) were included on the most recent revisions to the Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket. Thank you for the reminder. We have also reviewed the Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket revisions.

The first site I will address is Elson Lagoon. The Navy will shortly be sending a memorandum to EPA Docket Coordinator requesting clarification or correction regarding a number of sites, including Elson Lagoon, Barrow, AK. The preamble to the docket states that only facilities that are currently owned by a federal agency should be placed on the docket, and therefore to the extent that EPA inadvertently included State-owned or privately owned facilities, federal agencies are requested to submit the information necessary to correct the error to the EPA Docket Coordinator. Based on that criterion, we believe Elson Lagoon may have been improperly included on the docket.

The "facility" is referred to simply as "Elson Lagoon" and is described as being "East of Barrow, AK." As you undoubtedly know, Elson Lagoon is a large body of water in the Arctic Ocean which forms the eastern boundary of the Chukchi Peninsula. Elson Lagoon is approximately 5 miles east of the Village of Barrow, AK. [See, enclosure (1).] While the situation is complicated, we believe the following is a fair description of the current status of property ownership by the United States, in the vicinity of the Village of Barrow and the Elson Lagoon.

In the past, the United States owned U.S. Survey 5253, Lots 4 & 5 (also described as portions of sections 22, 23, 24,

25, 28, 33, 34, 35, and 36, as well as all of sections 26 and 27, in T23N, R18W). The United States also owned U.S. Survey 5253, Lot 1 (also described as portions of sections 10, 11, 14, and 15 of T22N, R18W). [See, enclosure (2).] The above-stated property was known generally as the "Naval Arctic Research Laboratory" because the Navy Laboratory was located in that vicinity. Over a period of years in the late 1980's and through a series of conveyances, the United States (through the Department of Interior) transferred most of the above-noted property to the Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation (UIC). UIC is a Native Corporation authorized pursuant to §8 of the Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act.

While all the above-noted property in U.S. Survey 5253, Lot 1 (T22N, R18W) has been conveyed to the Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation, portions of U.S. Survey 5253, Lot 4 (T23N, R18W) are still owned by the United States. Various federal agencies (including the Navy) have been authorized to use these remaining pieces of federal property in the Barrow/Elson Lagoon vicinity. [See, enclosure (3).]

The only properties within the Barrow vicinity that remains under the Navy's jurisdiction are approximately 150 acres northwest of the North Salt Lagoon located in U.S. Survey 5253, Lot 4 (section 27, T23N, R18W) (currently leased to the Air Force), and approximately 536 acres located in U.S. Survey 5253, Lot 4 (section 27, T23N, R18W) approximately 1 1/2 miles west of Elson Lagoon. The latter Navy property is legally described as follows:

T23N, R18W Umiat Meridian, Beginning at a True Point of Beginning located approximately 2,527.5 ft West of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Station "Pt. Barrow South Base" as outlined in PLO 2344 and on the southern boundary of Tract "A" of the U.S. Air Force Reserve; Thence West approximately 2,160 ft along the southern boundary of Tract "A" to the southwest corner of Tract "A"; Thence West approximately 2,700 ft to a point; Thence south 4,800 to a point; Thence East 4,860 ft to a point; Thence North 4,800 ft to the True Point Beginning.

[See, enclosure (4).] Given the status of United States' ownership in the Barrow/Elson Lagoon vicinity, Navy headquarters will be asking EPA headquarters to clarify what it meant by the listing of "Elson Lagoon."

Notwithstanding the propriety of including Elson Lagoon as a federal facility on the Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket, the Navy is conducting certain cleanup actions at the former Naval Arctic Research Laboratory pursuant to a land exchange agreement between the Department of Interior, Department of the Navy, and the Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation, based on the United States' prior ownership. The agreement was entered into in 1986 and amended in 1988. I believe your

