

Former Dump Site ACTION PLAN



Kotlik, Alaska

Prepared by
Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
Brownfields Tribal Response Program
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INTRODUCTION

In the spring of 2008, Kotlik Traditional Council & the Native Village of Bill Moore's Slough applied for an Environmental Site Assessment for the Former Dump Site through the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC) Brownfields Program. Based on the hazards posed to human health and the environment, this site was ranked as a top priority and selected to receive a *Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)* and this *Action Plan*.

The EPA defines a brownfield as 'real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant.'

The information contained in this Plan is based on the Phase I ESA, communication with the Environmental Departments of Bill Moore's Slough and Kotlik Traditional Council, interviews with local residents, and communication with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Brownfield State Response Program.

PURPOSE

This document is an Action Plan, with the general purpose of providing the Kotlik community with relevant information to inform future decisions regarding the Former Dump Site. This document will provide site-specific background information, summarize major findings of the Environmental Site Assessment, outline future recommended actions, and identify potential funding opportunities.

Sections in this Action Plan include:

- Site Description
- Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Findings (BGES)
- Recommended Actions
- Potential Funding Opportunities
- Attachments

1. SITE DESCRIPTION

In the spring of 2008, the application to YRITWC for assessment of the Former Dump Site was chosen to receive a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. YRITWC hired Braunstein Geological & Environmental Services, Inc. (BGES) to complete the work, and traveled with an environmental professional on July 14 to the village to participate in assessment activities.

The Former Dump Site is located across the Yukon River from the community of Kotlik, approximately ½ mile north of town (see Figure 1). The area surrounding the site is marshy with some low brush. A large pond sits to the northwest of the property and the current community dumpsite is about ¼ mile upriver.



Figure 1: Location Map

2. PHASE I ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT (BGES)

This Phase I ESA was conducted to identify land ownership, past use, and possible sources of contamination at the Former Dump Site. To accomplish these goals, a records review was performed, as well as a physical investigation of the site, and interviews with local residents. The following is a list of key findings as indicated in the Report produced by BGES:

- Dump Debris and Hazards:
 - drums (approx. 25)- mostly empty, except for rainwater; possibly had contents at some point that were discharged during flood or over time
 - abandoned appliances
 - abandoned snowmachines
 - household wastes
 - portions of a chain-link fence
 - a blue tarp
- Interviews: Harold Okitkun of Bill Moore's Slough Environmental Department was interviewed and indicated that the site had initially been used as a dump site by the BIA school in the '60s and that dumping activities had continued into the '80s. An aerial photograph from 1984 indicated that dumping was present at the subject property, though dumping was not perceivable from aerial photos taken in 1975 and 1965.
- Local knowledge: A community meeting was held to gather more information on the Former Dump Site, and community members indicated that subsistence activities had occurred near this site in the past, but to a lesser extent today, due to the proximity to the current dump. Residents also communicated that the subject property is prone to flooding, having experienced water levels high enough to access some of the debris by boat.



Figures 2 & 3: examples of abandoned appliances and drums found at site

3. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Step 1: Site Control

- a) Ensure community is aware that this site poses physical and possibly chemical hazards to human health and the environment, and that people should avoid activity in the area.

Step 2: Planning for Clean-up and Reuse

- a) Establish planning committee (city, tribes, residents, partnering organizations)
- b) Identify available resources:
 - o *Local*: equipment, HAZWOPER trained residents, program staff
 - o *Regional*: partnering organizations, funding agencies
 - o *State*: Alaska Department of Environmental Protection
- c) Identify items that can be backhauled and stage them for removal during next backhaul season

Prior to removing other debris, the City of Kotlik is strongly encouraged to coordinate with ADEC to develop a controlled, permitted landfill where other non-hazardous debris can be safely disposed.

- d) Remove bulky debris, backhaul and/or relocate household waste to a permitted dump.
- e) After debris removal, begin sampling of soil and surface water to establish baseline data and determine which contaminants are of concern at this site. Continue sampling efforts to determine concentrations of contaminants over time. When levels drop below critical values, the community will be able to once again use the site for subsistence activities and recreation.

For more in depth information of recommended clean-up actions, please see BGES Phase I ESA Report.

4. POTENTIAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Clean-up Funding:

EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grants

Cleanup grants provide funding for a grant recipient to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites. Eligible entities include private landowners, cities, boroughs, and corporations (Alaska Tribes are ineligible). An eligible entity may apply for up to \$200,000 per site. These funds may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. This grant requires a 20% cost share, which may be in the form of a contribution of money, labor, material, or services, and must be for eligible and allowable costs. A cleanup grant applicant may request a waiver of the 20 percent cost share requirement based on hardship. Applicants must own the site for which it is requesting funding at time of application or demonstrate the ability to acquire title.

http://epa.gov/swerosps/bf/cleanup_grants.htm

EPA Indian General Assistance Program

Provides an opportunity for tribes to build capacity and management capability to implement environmental programs administered by the U.S. EPA. Under the Program, tribes can tailor capacity-building through an integrated plan that may include financial assistance complemented and/or supplemented with additional assistance through project and program-specific grants.

<http://www.epa.gov/region08/tribes/gap.html>

ATTACHMENT A: RESOURCE CONTACTS

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

Brownfields Tribal Response Program

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Backhaul State Response Program

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<http://yritwc.org/Departments/Backhaul/tabid/62/Default.aspx>

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Brownfield Program

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<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/csp/brownfields.htm>

Solid Waste Program

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<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/sw/index.htm>

- Landfill Permitting:

http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/sw/SW_Permits/permitapps.htm

- Water Quality Standards for Surface Water Monitoring at Landfills:

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/EH/sw/Factsheets/Surface%20water%20MCL%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

Solid Waste Action Network landfills page:

<http://www.ccthita-swan.org/Tutorials/landfill.cfm>

EPA Waste Management in Indian Country:

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/wycd/tribal/finance.htm>

- *Grant Resources for Solid Waste Activities in Indian Country:*

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/wycd/tribal/pdfxt/tribfund.pdf>