



Contaminated Site Remediation

What's HAPPENING in the ISR

March 2009



Canada

Atkinson Point Remediation Complete!

Remediation activities at the site began in April 2007 and were mainly completed by April 2008 with some final small tasks completed this August. By the end of last summer, vegetation had started to grow back in some areas, and there were already birds nesting on the site!

Remediation activities completed

Remediation work at Atkinson Point is now complete. A final inspection was conducted by INAC, along with Tuktoyaktuk community groups and E. Grubens' Transport Limited, the contractor that completed the remediation work.

This included:

- Hazardous waste removed from site and disposed of at licensed southern disposal facilities
- Buildings / tanks demolished and non-hazardous waste disposed of off site at various disposal facilities depending on the waste type
- Surface and shallow subsurface debris collected
- Remediation of hydrocarbon-contaminated soils through a mechanical aeration process called "alluving"



Atkinson Point, during remediation



Atkinson Point, after remediation

Community Involvement

The community of Tuktoyaktuk has been involved in this project throughout its lifecycle. Most recently Tuktoyaktuk community groups joined the final site tour to see the site in its remediated state. A community meeting was also held in August 2008 to communicate the full extent of work completed on site and to celebrate the success of this remediation project.

Next Steps

A site inspection will be conducted in the summer of 2009 to ensure the stability of the work completed on site (such as backfills and checking for erosion issues). As no landfills or residual contamination is left on site, there is no need for long-term monitoring.



Community members from Tuktoyaktuk visit Atkinson Point, August, 2008

Update

Johnson Point Remediation

The Johnson Point site is an abandoned oil and gas exploration support and staging area located approximately 270 km northeast of Sachs Harbour on Banks Island, along the Prince of Wales Strait, in the Northwest Territories. The site was used by several exploration companies from the early 1960s until the early 1980s, when responsibility for the facilities reverted to the Crown. It continues to be used as a base for mineral exploration, a fuel cache location and an alternate airstrip for traveling further north.

The area surrounding Johnson Point, including the Prince of Wales Strait, has been used by residents of Sachs Harbour and Ulukhaktok throughout their history. They have traveled and hunted in this area and continue to visit the area to hunt musk ox, Peary caribou, polar bears, and several species of seals. There is also an arctic char habitat close to the site.

Contaminants on the site include hydrocarbon in soils, waste oil and other liquid wastes. Several buildings on the site contain asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and/or lead-based paints. General debris and waste metal scattered around the area could also pose a safety risk to people or wildlife.



Fuel tank demolition, Johnson Point, August 2008

Remediation Work

Remediation work at the site got under way this past summer, and equipment was mobilized to site by barge in early August 2008.

Approximately 100,000L of waste fuel from various fuel storage tanks and barrels was incinerated in 2006. Last summer, smaller tanks and barrels, along with other non-hazardous waste including trailers, were barged out from site to be further dismantled and disposed of in a southern disposal facility. Workers on site started to demolish the bolted tanks from the tank farm. As well, minor upgrades were made to the airstrip and site roads in preparation for further remediation work in summer 2009.

In Ulukhaktok, granular material to be used next year for erosion protection was screened and prepared, and will be barged to Johnson Point in summer 2009.

Assessment Work

Further soil samples were also taken last summer to further delineate hydrocarbon contamination on site.



Soil sampling, Johnson Point, August 2008

Johnson Point Remediation Schedule

August 2006

- Waste fuel incinerated on site
- Barrels crushed, ready for removal

2007

- Remedial Action Plan finalized

Summer 2008

- Mobilized to site by barge
- Camp set up and remediation work started
- Air strip upgraded
- Some non-hazardous waste removed from site
- Tank farm demolition started
- Navigation area decommissioned

Summer 2009

- Demolish fuel tanks
- Excavate, backfill and treat hydrocarbon-contaminated soil
- Remove and dispose of remaining non-hazardous materials
- Containerize, transport and dispose of hazardous material offsite at a licensed disposal facility
- Stabilize pre-existing onsite landfills

Depending on weather conditions, barge availability and assuming no additions to the scope, the project may finish at the end of the 2009 summer season instead of in 2010.

Community Involvement

Consultation with affected communities has been ongoing since the start of this project and community members from Sachs Harbour and Ulukhaktok have provided invaluable information and insights into the assessment and remediation planning stages.

Community meetings were held this year in both Sachs Harbour and Ulukhaktok to introduce the remediation contractor, address any community concerns and discuss potential employment opportunities. E. Gruben's Transport has committed to an Inuvialuit labour content of 81%, and an Inuvialuit content for contracting value of 95%.

A community site tour is planned for summer of 2009.

Completed Remediation Work

Since beginning remediation work in the ISR, INAC has completed a number of site remediation projects. The following sites have been remediated:

- Pearce Point
- Horton River
- Kittigazuit Military Site
- Atkinson Point (BAR-D) DEW Line Site

Horton River is being monitored, as a landfill was constructed on site as part of the site remediation.

As an Annex "R" site under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the Kittigazuit site has now been transferred back to the Inuvialuit.



Aerial view of Tununuk (BAR-C)

Assessment Update

Tununuk (BAR-C) DEW Line Site

The Tununuk site was in use as the BAR-C Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line Intermediate Site from 1957 to 1963 when it was deactivated. Responsibility of the site was handed over to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) in 1965. INAC leased part of the site to Imperial Oil Limited (IOL) as an exploration base. IOL's main use of the site occurred during the 1970s and 1980s, when they constructed a number of petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) storage tanks there.

Currently, four of these tanks and associated pump houses remain on the site. Most other buildings on site were removed at some point, to their concrete foundations. Three disposal sites have been located on site. In addition, there is a small amount of debris scattered around the site, including a radar antenna, metal cables, barrels, drywall and wood.

Initial assessments of the site indicate unacceptable levels of PCBs at one of the disposal sites. As well, fuel and oil remain in several tanks and barrels on the site.

This past summer, a Phase III environmental assessment was conducted at the site. Information from this assessment will be used by INAC and IOL to determine the site liability and the responsible parties who may share in this liability.

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Have you seen a suspected contaminated site?

For more information on contaminated sites in the ISR, or to report a suspected contaminated site, contact:

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