

St. GEORGE ISLAND RAB AGENDA
24 September 2002

✓^{9:00} 8:30 a.m. - 8:40 a.m. Opening and Introductions Island RAB Chair
Distribution of April 4, 2002 RAB minutes for review

✓^{9:10} 8:40 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. Public Comments/Modifications to Agenda

✓^{9:20} 0850-0915: Pribilof Island Restoration Budget Overview for FY02 (Lindsay)

✓^{9:45} 0915-10:00 Results of 2001 Site Characterization Activities (Gervais)
Abandoned Diesel Tank Farm
Old Carpenter Shop
Forthcoming Reports

✓^{10:30} 10:00-10:15 Break

✓^{10:45} 10:15-11:00 NOAA Cleanup Activities During Summer of 2002 (Winandy)
✓ Former Gasoline Tank Farm
✓ School UST Soil Removal
✓ Open Pits Site
✓ Old Carpenter Shop
✓ Abandoned Diesel Tank Farm
Petroleum Contaminated Soil Treatment

✓^{11:40} 11:00-11:15 Landfill Planning and Design Grant (ADEC/NOAA)
✓ 11:15-11:30 NOAA Plans for remainder of 2002 and 2003 (Lindsay)
11:30 -12:00 (noon) Public Comments/Next Meeting/Adjourn

Pribilof Islands Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
September 24, 2002
St. George Island, Alaska

Attending: John Lindsay, Dave Winandy, Greg Gervais, Laura Murray, NOAA; Louis Howard, Leslie Simmons, ADEC; Walter Lestenkof, Andy Kashevarof, St. George Tanaq Corporation; Alvin Mercurief, City of St. George; Anthony Mercurief, St. George Traditional Council; Todd A. Lestenkof, EPA/Traditional Council.

9:00 Introductions/Distribution of previous meeting minutes

9:05 Public Comments/Modifications to Agenda

Mr. Alvin Mercurief was chosen as the chairman for the St. George RAB. A request was made that the issue of underground storage tanks (USTs) on privately owned property be addressed when Mr. Todd Lestenkof arrived. The RAB agreed on this addition to the agenda.

Mr. Anthony Mercurief asked to see a summary of current work on St. Paul, specifically the cemetery project.

Mr. John Lindsay of NOAA discussed the cemetery project and further explained the purpose and significance of the project. The project was undertaken as part of the historical preservation activities on the Pribilof Islands. The city of St. Paul lacked records on the names associated with many of the graves in the cemetery. Thus, NOAA worked in cooperation with the city, the church, and the community residents to complete these records and create a database for the public. Before beginning the project, Mr. Lindsay requested validation from the church and the priest, and they displayed overwhelming support and approval for the project. GPS was used to locate each grave marker, and digital photos were taken of each grave. NOAA is making both a map that can be printed out as well as a DVD or CD version that can be used on computers. The data may be available on the Internet eventually as well, so that people can query for names of relatives that they want to locate in the village cemetery. Pictures of the individuals may be posted as part of the project as well. NOAA is attempting to accomplish this on St. George as well, but of the 300 graves in the village cemetery, few have any information available about them. Mr. Anthony Mercurief asked if anyone had requested that an investigation of Funter Bay be completed, as many Pribilovians passed away and were buried there. Mr. Lindsay asked that any further requests should be put in writing, addressed to him, as NOAA has limited funds to spend on historic preservation activities.

9:20 Pribilof Island Restoration Budget Overview for FY02

Mr. Lindsay declined to discuss how much money is specifically spent on each island, as it creates tension about amounts per island. NOAA's Pribilof Islands Environmental Restoration Project had an appropriation of 6 million dollars for Fiscal Year 2002 and a carryover of 2.46 million dollars from the previous fiscal year.

However, a large portion of the latter amount was spent early in the fiscal year to pay contractors for work completed. Mr. Lindsay mentioned that he might need to hire one or two new engineers, as the Pribilof Project Office intended to have four engineers employed and now has only two. Mr. Lindsay stated that the Pribilof Project Office reduced the amount of money spent on salaries from the past. New equipment made up a portion of the fiscal year 2002 budget. Stainless steel manifolds for the Enhanced Thermal Conduction unit, a Geoprobe for taking soil samples at deeper depths, and a survey grade Global Positioning System to more accurately map excavations and site work were the major purchases.

Mr. Lindsay mentioned the budget difficulties experienced by the Pribilof Project Office at the end of this fiscal year, which resulted in halting off of all contract work since mid-August. Mr. Lindsay stated that since a lot of the site work has exceeded budget estimates, the Pribilof Project Office is financially over committed, so there is less work planned for this fiscal year. Mr. Lindsay if the RAB had any question regarding the budget. Mr. Alvin Mercurief asked if there is increased funding for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Lindsay responded that the Pribilof Project Office has been confirmed for last year's funding level, but two of the six million dollars available is committed for landfill development. Mr. Walter Lestenkof inquired as to whether any money will carry over from the current fiscal year to fiscal year 2003. Mr. Lindsay answered that approximately \$490,000 will carry over.

Mr. Dave Winandy mentioned that the switchover to the CAMS accounting system, which involves a twenty-digit accounting code instead of an eight-digit accounting code, might complicate financial matters for the Pribilof Project Office for a while. Mr. Greg Gervais added that the conversion to a new accounting system may be difficult, but in the end, accounting will be more accurate, allowing the Pribilof Project Office to track its financial status on a day-to-day basis.

Mr. Andy Kashevarof asked about the cost of the Geoprobe system and site investigations. Mr. Lindsay responded that the Pribilof Project site work now has increased accuracy due to the Geoprobe and Global Positioning System. Mr. Lindsay discussed that aerial photographs combined with an advanced sampling system allows Pribilof Project Office staff to pinpoint where contamination lies, and thus saves incredible amounts of money on contractors and analytical samples. Mr. Anthony Mercurief asked for a description of the Geoprobe, and Mr. Gervais explained that the Geoprobe allows Pribilof Project Office staff to collect samples down to the top of the basalt layer.

A lengthy discussion ensued about site cleanup, the need for further site investigation on previous sites, and the prioritizing of site cleanup relative to health risk and groundwater issues. Mr. Alvin Mercurief inquired as to whether or not sampling had been conducted at the Gun House and the Government Building, and according to NOAA, none has been performed there. Mr. Mercurief stated that lead paint had been used in that area, so sampling there should be considered

Mr. John Lindsay reviewed site and cleanup priorities for the coming year. He stated that PCS Stockpile Treatment, at an estimated 2,300 cyd³ is one priority. Village site cleanup at the Abandoned Diesel Tank Farm, the Open Pits Site, Cottage C, the Old Carpenters Shop, the Former Port Fuel Supply N-S Line, and the Store underground storage tank are the priority sites for this year. Mr. Lindsay stated that Cottage C should

be the responsibility of the National Marine Fisheries Service, not the Pribilof Project Office. Given the estimated cost to treat these sites and clean the soil, more wells and groundwater monitoring are necessary. All wells need to be monitored at once to determine groundwater flow and direction. Mr. Lindsay stated that with current funding, monitoring is planned for once in June and once in November, during high runoff periods.

Mr. Lindsay briefly reviewed the project priorities for St. Paul Island. Many of the upcoming site work planned for St. Paul Island were also on the list for last year, but the budget difficulties caused site work cessation on St. Paul Island in August.

10:30 - 15-minute break

10:45

Mr. Lindsay presented two examples of how aerial photography and GPS are used to better define where contamination is located based on the locations of diesel tanks in the past. A map of the FPP on St. Paul was shown, as well as an overview map of TPA 18 on St. George Island. Historical aerial photographs were rectified using GIS software, and were used in the field to locate precisely where sources of contamination are located. Excavation and sampling are then targeted in these areas, which eliminates guesswork in finding and removing contaminated soil.

Mr. Anthony Mercurief asked the ADEC representatives their opinion on site cleanup progress on St. George Island. Mr. Louis Howard of ADEC expressed that sufficient progress has been made thus far. He agreed with other RAB members that village site cleanup should be a priority. Ms. Leslie Simmons of ADEC said that she would address the RAB later about landfill progress.

11:00 Landfill Design and Development

Mr. John Lindsay inquired about the status of the landfill grant. He stated that Congress allotted two million dollars to the state of Alaska for landfill design and planning on the Pribilof Islands. The state of Alaska then divided the two million equally to each island. The state did not take any administrative overhead out of the funding.

Ms. Leslie Simmons presented a message from ADEC regarding the landfill situation. The State of Alaska encourages the cities of St. Paul and St. George, NOAA, and the State of Alaska to work together on landfill design and development. She stressed that economic development will not be the route of money transfer. Instead, the grant will go through the state to each city. She added that the NOAA landfill would not be closed until each city has its own landfill established. Ms. Simmons then spoke about the importance of long-term planning in landfill design. She emphasized that the cities need to plan a landfill that they could realistically afford after the grant money is used. Ms. Simmons used the example of the landfill plan proposed by the city of St. Paul, which includes redundant items such as a burn box and an incinerator. She suggested that the city of St. Paul eliminate the incinerator from their plan, as it will be expensive to build and operate, which a burn box is relatively cheap.

At this point, comments from the RAB regarding landfill development were heard. Mr. Anthony Mercurief inquired about why money was not channeled through economic development as in the past. Ms. Simmons answered that money transferred in this manner is not landfill-specific, so the money will be transferred through the government to ensure that it will be used for landfill design and development.

Mr. Anthony Mercurief stated that he feels that the state of Alaska should work more closely with the community, and that communication between the two entities should be improved. Mr. Anthony Mercurief cited as an example what happened with the CDQ (Community Development Quota) groups. He said that St. Paul and St. George had been asked to coordinate plans to build one fish processing plant for both islands, but since they are forty miles apart, that was not a viable option for them. Ms. Simmons emphasized that she is available for communication and planning with the community. She offered to assist them with planning a reasonable, easily maintained landfill. She also said that she would try to improve communication between her office and the communities, and pass concerns of the communities to authorities in the State of Alaska government.

11:15 Results of 2001 Site Characterization Activities (Greg Gervais) and Upcoming Plans

Mr. Greg Gervais of NOAA reported on the recent characterization activities and upcoming plans. During the past year, characterization work was completed on the oceanfront sites: the former fuel storage area, the ballfield/former landfill, the old carpenter shop, the Tanaq shop, the city office building, and the power plant.

At the old carpenter shop, soil borings were done at 7 locations, and 13 soil samples were analyzed for GRO, DRO, RRO, VOCs, and SVOCs, and heavy metals. Only lead contamination was found to be above the Method 2 cleanup level.

At the diesel tank farm, soil borings were taken at 6 locations on the perimeter of excavation. 12 soil samples were analyzed for GRO, DRO, RRO, VOCs, SVOCs, and heavy metals. Three groundwater-monitoring wells were also installed. Groundwater samples were analyzed for all of the above contaminants except RRO, which is not typically tested for in groundwater. No soil contaminants were found above the Method 2 cleanup levels. In the groundwater samples, no contaminants were found above the Table C cleanup levels. Additional soil sampling will be performed to fill in gaps in the results. Mr. Gervais used a map to demonstrate where more samples should be taken, and where samples were not deep enough. A rough estimate is that 600 more cyd³ of soil will be removed. Mr. Gervais mentioned that thin layer chromatography field screens will be used to give more accuracy in field screenings, rather than previously used photo-ionizing detectors (PIDs).

Drafts for site characterization reports for TPA sites 18, 7, 1, 2, 3, and 8 are due in the coming weeks and will be discussed in depth at the next RAB meeting. Mr. Gervais added that several monitoring wells are currently being installed near TPA Site 6, the village, and the oceanfront area. Mr. Gervais mentioned that MW-1 will be over 500 feet from the city drinking water supply, and according to state of Alaska regulations, there is no problem with placing a groundwater monitoring well near drinking water supply. The reason for installing the monitoring wells is to track which way the

groundwater is flowing. The two nearest the drinking water (MW-1 and MW-2) may not be able to be drilled, if NOAA equipment is unable to drill deep enough into the ground. Mr. Gervais stated that groundwater monitoring would be performed when runoff is high next spring, which shows the flushing of contamination with the rise in groundwater. NOAA's objective is to be able to map out where the groundwater flow and direction.

Mr. Gervais reviewed the site characterizations planned for fiscal year 2003. They are as follows: a hydrogeologic investigation of the groundwater network, a floating product investigation at the Tanaq building, and deeper soil sampling at the diesel tank farm.

Mr. Andy Kashevarof mentioned that drilling equipment was blocking the road on Saturday when several community members wanted to go hunting, and he requested that the road not be blocked during well drilling. Mr. Gervais responded that a small scoria pad might need to be constructed, so that the compressor and drill rig will be pulled off road in the future.

Mr. Walter Lestenkof asked about the presence of contaminated material in the sewer system, and what action would be taken. Mr. Lindsay responded that if the contamination is related to the federal government, NOAA would have it tested, but if it's unrelated then the city must take responsibility. Mr. Lindsay pointed out that if the city is going to excavate contaminated sites, they must communicate with Mr. Louis Howard to obtain the proper permits.

Mr. Lindsay inquired about the Open Pits site, and whether or not the city would prefer that the concrete debris at the site be used as fill for the hole rather than transporting in more fill in its place. A total of 150 truckloads (1500 cyd³) of fill will be needed for the open pits site. Mr. Alvin Merculief of the city of St. George suggested that the fill from the six-plex be used. However, Mr. Andy Kashevarof suggested that the six-plex fill might be contaminated, resulting in introducing more contamination to the open pits site.

The 10 Times Rule:

Mr. John Lindsay described the 10 times rule, which is being utilized on St. Paul Island. He stated that there has been no opposition from the community on this issue. Mr. Lindsay stated that NOAA will ask to apply the 10 times rule in St. George village as well, since the groundwater is not available for drinking water anyway. NOAA also intends to apply the 10 times rule for the overlying soils as well. Mr. Lindsay emphasized that the use of the 10 times rule does not have an effect on human health, as the cleanup level under the 10 times rule does not approach the level of contamination deemed harmful to human health. Mr. Lindsay cited several instances of use of the 10 times rule on St. Paul Island, including the Decommissioned Power Plant, the Old Movie Theater, and the Former Power Plant. Mr. Lindsay stated that the 10 times rule will be applied at the village sites and the open pits site, as there is no potential for inhalation or ingestion in those areas.

12:00 – NOAA Cleanup Activities During Summer 2002 (David Winandy)

Mr. Dave Winandy of NOAA showed a 1967 aerial photo of the eastern area of St. George village, specifically the Diesel tank farm, the Gasoline Tank Farm, the North-South Cargo Line, and Open pits site. Mr. Winandy displayed a site map of TPA Site 24 (the Inactive Gasoline Tank Farm) and the sampling locations and test pits completed at the site by Chadux and Hart Crowser. He also showed a map showing Polar Consult Confirmation Samples at the site. Several samples at the site exceeded the Method 1, Category B cleanup levels. 1,650 cyd³ of petroleum-contaminated soils were removed from the site and one cell at the Enhanced Thermal Conduction (ETC) unit has been constructed so far.

Mr. Winandy described site work at the St. George school underground storage tank. Excavation went to full refusal, and one sample was above Method 1 cleanup level for DRO. The site was backfilled and fuel line was removed. The excavated soils will be treated at the ETC unit.

Mr. Winandy displayed an aerial photo showing the contaminated soil at the open pits site (TPA 6). He stated that 300 cyd³ was the approximate amount of contaminated soil excavation. Coal on the ground surface was removed. Mr. Winandy has been researching different types of coal, combustion temperatures, sustained burn temperatures, and burn byproducts, so that he can present his findings to the state of Alaska. If treated in the ETC unit, coal may burn too hot and melt the cell cover.

Next, Mr. Winandy discussed the site work at the Old Carpenter Shop (TPA 19). He showed where Hart Crowser took samples in 1996, where Tetra Tech Environmental Management Inc. sampled in 2001, and where PolarConsult sampled in 2002. A 1948 aerial photo was used identify the location of two tanks on the north side of the site, and thus where to sample. At 1 – 1.5 feet deep, there was a dark layer of soil, several inches thick. High lead levels were found in the dark band. Lead was found in a band of decomposing sawdust (or some other organic matter). Mr. Winandy believes the band was the original surface elevation of the building. The footprint of the Old Carpenter Shop was staked out and photographed from the church tower, as well as the above ground storage tanks. DRO was found in one sample, with a concentration of 34 mg/kg.

Mr. Winandy reviewed site work at TPA site 23, the Abandoned Diesel Tank Farm. Mr. Winandy showed pictures of the excavation and grading of TPA 23. He said that the sloping is not finished at the ends so that if more excavation is required there, less soil will require removal. He stated that since the Trimble Real-Time Kinematic Survey system was used to map the excavation extent, it can be located again easily by staking out points, rather than test-pitting.

Mr. Lindsay added that the Old Hangar (TPA 12) site should be closed by the federal government, as staining at the site is post-cleanup performed by NOAA.

12:45 Public Comments

Ms. Leslie Simmons asked to discuss the state landfill inspection form that will be completed shortly for the St. George landfill. She stated that landfill enforcement is a last resort for the state, and she prefers to educate cities on solid waste management. Ms. Simmons asked the city to use the inspection form as an educational tool and benchmark for landfill improvement.

Mr. Todd Lestenkof of the St. George Traditional Council spoke about residential underground storage tanks. The majority of the houses in St. George village have USTs, which may or may not be leaking. The community is concerned about the USTs leaking, and they want to question the responsibility for USTs on privately owned property. Mr. John Lindsay stated that there is no legal mandate requiring the government to clean up privately owned property, regardless of past government management of the village. If there was a problem with a particular UST, the owner was required to bring that to the attention of the government at the time of transfer. Otherwise, it is assumed that the problem developed after the time of transfer. There may be loans available for UST removal for homeowners, in the form of grant money as loans from the federal government. Mr. Anthony Mercurief asked if this policy applies to St. Paul Island as well, and John confirmed that it does. The USTs currently being removed on St. Paul Island are on government owned property that is not yet transferred.

Mr. Alvin Mercurief asked if there were any further comments from the RAB. John L suggested we address the time of the next RAB meeting. Theoretically, quarterly meetings should be held, which means February 2003 would be the next meeting time. Ms. Simmons suggested planning the RAB meeting to coordinate with the Alaska Forum on the Environment conference going on in Anchorage February 10-14. Ms. Simmons is a coordinator and will be presenting on landfill management at the conference. St. George RAB members requested a joint meeting with St. Paul Island RAB members, possibly on the 14th of February in Anchorage, in order to coordinate with the conference. Mr. Alvin Mercurief made a motion to hold a meeting that day if agreed upon by the St. Paul RAB members, and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.