

**Pribilof Restoration Advisory Board Meeting  
January 31, 2001  
WestCoast International, Anchorage, Alaska**

**Meeting Agenda**

8:00 a.m. - 8:20 a.m.	Opening and Introductions	RAB Co-Chairs
8:20 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Public Comments	
8:30 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.	Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	RAB
8:35 a.m. - 8:50 a.m.	Communities Member Communications Activities Report.	Island Co-Chairs
8:50 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.	Budget Report - FY00 Spending - Project Spending History	NOAA Co-Chair
9:05 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Review and Discussion of P.L. 106-562 Requirements NOAA Action Plan	NOAA
10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Landfill Closures New Landfill Development	John Lindsay, NOAA ADEC
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Island Project Status Report - St. Paul Island - Summary of FY 00 Activities	John Lindsay, NOAA
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Island Project Status Report - St. George Island - Summary of FY 00 Activities	Dennis Hall, NOAA
1:30p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Clean-up Program Status and FY01 Schedule - TPA Sites - Non-TPA Sites - FUDS Sites - Other	John Lindsay, NOAA
2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Break	
3:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.	Machine Shop Transformation to Public Safety Complex	City of St. Paul/TDX
3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Next Meeting Agenda Items Dates/Location	
4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Public Comments/Adjourn	

## **Pribilof Islands Restoration Advisory Board**

West Coast International Hotel

January 31, 2001

**Attending:** Richard Legatski, John Lindsay, Dennis Hall, Tom Simon, Celestia Mayasleca, NOAA; Victor Mercurief Sr., Anthony Mercurief, TDX; Max Malavansky, City of St. George, Laurence Lestenkof, Andy Kashevarof, Bret Coburn, St. George Tanaq Corp; Louis Howard, ADEC; Martha Malavansky, St. George Member-at-Large; Jason Bourdukofsky Sr., St. Paul Member-at-Large; David Ausman, PolarConsult; Darren Burks, IT Corporation; Robert Taylor, NOAA Office of General Counsel; John Olson, Island Herder's Association; Bill Arterburn, BSE; Mike Zacharof, St. Paul Tribe; Boris Mercurief, St. George Traditional Council. John R. Mercurief and Myron Melividov from the City of St. Paul participated by conference call.

### **Opening and Introductions**

### **Public Comments**

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Deferred until later in the meeting.

### **Communities Member Communications**

### **Activities Report**

### **Budget Report - FY00 Spending and Project Spending History**

Mr. John Lindsay, Pribilof Islands Environmental Restoration Project Manager, went over the spending table (contracts expenditures and administrative costs) covering the period from 1994 through 1999 when the Western Administrative Service Center (WASC) headed the cleanup project, and from April 1999 to the present when the Office of Response and Restoration headed the cleanup project. Mr. Lindsay told the RAB that unless more help was hired he would be unable to spend much of the approximate \$7 million funding available for FY 01 field season. There is a backlog of site characterization reports from 1999, and approximately 60 reports pending from 2000 that must be reviewed. There are only two NOAA staff members with a regulatory background available now to perform this work, in addition to initiating and overseeing FY01 work. In addition, Mr. Lindsay pointed out that not all of the \$7 million would be obligated to project activities as some funds must be retained to cover unanticipated expenses and salaries for at least the first part of the next fiscal year beginning in October as approval of the federal budget is frequently delayed several months. The Project intends to enter into negotiations on a project priority basis. Following these initial negotiations, NOAA will determine if additional contractual activities could be possibly initiated this fiscal year. If the answer is yes, then NOAA will consider tasking second priority projects.

The effects of the Presidential hiring freeze on the project were discussed. RAB members expressed concern that the freeze would affect the on-islands work schedule. Mr. Lindsay agreed that this was a concern that he shared. The hiring freeze is hoped to end within two or three months. Mr. Lindsay explained that any new hires would be short-term employees hired for the duration of the most concerted period of the cleanup effort only.

A question was asked about the amount of funding. There was concern that it was inadequate for the work effort required in the short-term of FY01. Mr. Lindsay agreed and told the board that additional work could be added during FY01 if greater funding and the additional staffing were provided.

## **Review and Discussion of PL 106-562**

### **Requirements and NOAA Action Plan**

Mr. Legatski provided a summary of the PL for RAB member review and discussion. The Act's authorization of economic development funds is for a maximum of \$28M over 5 years. Any funds appropriated under this authorization will be transferred to the Department of Interior, which will administer grants to the communities.

For landfill construction, a maximum of \$6.5M has been authorized for St. Paul and a maximum of \$3.5M has been authorized for St. George. Legatski reminded the board that the Cities of St. George and St. Paul have until June 21, 2001, to enter into a written agreement with the state specifying the parcel or parcels of land to be used for new landfills, or the funds cannot be provided.

Section 104. Disposal of property. Legatski told the board that NOAA was well on its way to providing a report on the status of properties that have been, or are to be, transferred.

Section 105. Termination of Responsibilities. Mr. Legatski clarified that the termination clause would only apply to property after the property has been cleaned up to the point that it can be offered for transfer of ownership. Mr. Taylor explained to the board that parties who dispose of any materials, not just hazardous materials, after cleanup may be liable for contribution to any cleanup costs resulting from that disposal.

Section 106. There were no comments from the RAB.

Section 107. Mr. Bourdukofsky asked if NOAA would expend funds to assist with cleanup of contaminated soils from sites such as removal of USTs at private homes. Mr. Lindsay said that while NOAA had to give priority to its mandated requirements, it was possible that the ETC units could be used to assist with such issues. Mr. Legatski commented that the cost of treating soils from private home sites might have to be paid from funds other than the cleanup funds authorized under PL 104-91 and 106-562. Mr. Coburn asked about the interest rate on loans under Section 107. The interest rate on loans under Sec. 107 will be dependent on the mechanism used by AK to distribute the funds. Board members were concerned that funding appropriations would be reduced compared to authorizations. Mr. Legatski agreed that could be the case, and explained the federal funding process and issues related to the new Presidential administration to the board. There was a question about the supplemental appropriations process and when it would begin. Mr. Legatski explained the process. The cleanup funds authorized in section 107 are specific to the Pribilof Islands restoration effort.

## **Break**

**Landfill Closures.** NOAA gave a video presentation on landfill closure activities. The active landfill, Cell C, on St. Paul Island has only about six months capacity left based on determinations from ADEC and the City of St. Paul. TDX stated that the platting is being sent to the City of St. Paul for consideration of an adjacent 25-acre parcel of land for an interim landfill and transfer station. The City still has to vote on its willingness to accept the land. NOAA is also intending to transfer the existing landfill property (Cell C) to the City after it is closed per a pre-existing agreement. Mr. Lindsay had offered the cities of St. Paul and St. George the opportunity to provide funding through a cooperative agreement to develop a permit for the interim landfill, but Public Law 106-562 recently passed prohibits the use of cleanup funds for activities directly related to landfill redevelopment. NOAA created a pad at Cell A adjacent to the active landfill for the City of St. Paul's scrap metal storage. NOAA is awaiting a response from ADEC stating that the area under the pad has been properly closed. Mr. Lindsay told the RAB that while the site has been characterized and cleaned, there is no guarantee that more drums aren't out there.

The City of St. Paul called in to the meeting at this time. Mr. Legatski reiterated that there was a deadline of June 21 for the City to provide a plan to the state for landfill. A copy of the letter that had been sent out on January 11 explaining this to the City was faxed to Mr. Melivodov during the lunch break. The mail delivery of the January 11<sup>th</sup> letter had not yet arrived on St. Paul apparently due to the interruption in normal service related to the bankruptcy of Reeve Aleutian Airways.

Louis Howard, Mr. Legatski, and Max Malavansky, discussed the requirements for providing a landfill plan to the state in detail.

## **New Landfill Developments.**

St. Paul Island. Mr. Lindsay provided a slide showing the proposed sites for the new landfill within the 25-acre area at Polovina proposed by TDX for landfill use. He talked about the problems that had been found (disruption of view, soil contamination, distance from the airport, proximity to lakes) with the various site iterations. The most recent proposal was a site within the sand dune environment with low to no contamination levels and out of public view.

St. George Island. Mr. Lindsay showed a slide giving a rough description of the existing landfill area and sites discussed with the City to date. Mr. Lindsay expressed NOAA's desire to work with the state and the City for a solution to the final closure of the existing landfill and the interim solid waste disposal problem. NOAA desires to conclude its approved activities to close the existing landfill during 2001. However, NOAA will continue to work with the City on finding a solution to the alternative disposal problem while redevelopment plans are on hold pending the appropriation of funds. Mr. Malavansky said that the City is keeping tight control of what is being placed in the

landfill, and agreed that there was a need to continue discussions on how to resolve interim and final disposal solutions with NOAA and ADEC. Mr. Howard affirmed the State's willingness to assist with the process. NOAA is also precluded from giving funds it has received under the new legislation to the State for new landfill development.

### **Island Project Status Report – St. Paul Island, Summary of FY00 Activities.**

NOAA spent \$10M during FY00 on cleanup activities on the islands. Most work was done on St. Paul. More work will be done on St. George in FY01, however the extent of field activities on both islands in 2001 will be dependent on whether or not new NOAA staff are hired. Mr. Lindsay reiterated what he had stated at the beginning of the meeting in that the Project's present staffing levels are wholly inadequate to allow the overall project to continue at the pace conducted over the past two field seasons. Mr. Lindsay showed slides of site distributions over the island and listing the various projects. He showed a video on GPS training provided by NOAA to interested local individuals and the establishment of geodetic control. Mr. Lindsay pointed out that resulting effort led to the finding that the NOAA navigational charts were off by approximately 180 meters to the northeast. This finding led NOAA to issue new navigational charts for the islands within approximately the last two weeks. Mr. Lindsay discussed the island-wide debris removal effort and showed a video. This was not a TPA requirement, but rather a general cleanup as required under PL 104-91. He also discussed how he had recognized a need to address materials stored in buildings on NOAA-owned sites. Over 800 barrels of used oil and hazardous materials were removed from the island. He explained the Blubber Dump PCS ETC soil treatment process and showed a video on the work. Stockpile treatment will be a continuing project. Island stratigraphy is a concern because of potential contamination of ground water supplies. NOAA has entered into an agreement with USGS to perform the stratigraphic survey during the 2000 field season on each island, and USGS is continuing to finalize its report. Mr. Lindsay discussed the prohibition by PL 106-562 to expend cleanup funds on Formerly Used Defense Sites on the Pribilofs. He went on to discuss the findings of contamination at the oil drum dump site located NW of the weather station. He pointed out that NOAA considers the Oil Drum Dump Site as a FUDS. Mr. Lindsay talked about the COE's cleanup efforts, which included moving most but not all drums from the site which resulted in further releases at the site.

Mr. Lindsay discussed groundwater investigations at the Vehicle Boneyard Site. Contamination was found in all but one monitoring well. While there is concern that the contaminant source is unknown, the contaminant levels are very low and do not exceed State regulatory cleanup levels. Mr. Lindsay again pointed out that the barrel disposal site adjacent to the Vehicle Boneyard Site and the proposed new landfill site is a FUDS, and that NOAA is not taking any further responsibility for that barrel disposal site. Mr. Lindsay noted that NOAA considers Telegraph Hill and the Ridge Wall Scoria Pit FUDS as well. At Telegraph Hill, some barrels were removed and the soil was tested for diesel contamination. The levels were not high enough to require remediation. NOAA is taking additional groundwater monitoring well samples this winter at Telegraphy Hill only because of the proximity to the drinking water well field.

Mr. Lindsay showed a video of the removal action at the Dune Vehicle Boneyard Site. Mr. Bourdukofsky asked about the Ocean Clipper. Mr. Lindsay commented that he understood that the US Department of Justice initiated action against the owner of the Ocean Clipper to get them to clean it up. However, the owner declared bankruptcy. Mr. Bourdukofsky believes that since this is on NOAA property (a fur seal rookery) the removal of the Ocean Clipper should be NOAA's responsibility. The NOAA attorneys present both stated that NOAA is specifically precluded from using appropriated funds for cleanup of this vessel. Alternatives such as talking to NMFS or the owner were discussed.

Mr. Lindsay also briefly discussed the following sites on St. Paul:

Cell B Hill Side Barrel video of removal action.

Cell B. Site characterization performed.

Pumphouse Lake. A NFA letter will be requested.

NMFS Fuel Barges - Removal. Video.

Cliffside Landfills. Debris at base of Village Hill left behind by NMFS. Debris found on Reef Point site was removed. Some debris is lodged in cliff side crevices will be left there. An NFA letter will be requested.

Tract 46. 28 wells were installed in Tract 46. There are two primary plumes, one gasoline and a second one that was discovered late in the FY00 work season. More wells need to be installed to determine the extent of contamination at the second plume associated with the tank saddles in Tract A.

Former Gas Tank Farm. NFA letter received.

Diesel Tank Farm. Some soil removal will probably be required. Contamination goes down to the bedrock.

Lukanin Bay Debris. An old hot spot of oil was noted in an old report and a removal action is pending during 2001. A video was shown of a tank removal. Vegetation was replanted on the site by BSE.

Salt Lagoon Diesel Seep. CESI found contamination covering 2-3 acres where the crab pots are being stored. Low-level contamination also extends from the mouth of the lagoon down to the entrance to the lagoon channel. NOAA is working with the COE to try to overlap their salt lagoon channel improvement project with NOAA's cleanup project. NOAA intends to do a remedial design for the upland portion of the site this season.

Icehouse Lake. An NFA had been received, however, some stains looked suspicious and Mr. Lindsay found documentation indicating that contamination exists at the site. NOAA ordered a limited removal action and fairly extensive contamination was found. Further site characterization and removal action is intended for 2001.

Scoria Pit - Lake Hill. Appears to have been a debris site and is apparently clean. An NFA letter will be requested.

Non-TPA sites.

Aleut Bunkhouse. NOAA removed the building and NOAA will request an NFA letter.

Bulldozer in Bog. The bulldozer was removed and NOAA will request an NFA letter.

Barrels at North End of Salt Lagoon. 26 or 27 abused barrels were identified and marked in 1999 and removed in 2000.

Debris Below Big Polovina. Barrels and a dump truck were removed, and NOAA will request an NFA letter.

SW Point Former LORAN Station. This is a FUDS site. However, NOAA cleaned it up last year. An NFA letter will be requested.

Blasting Cap Site. Army personnel disposed of the blasting caps and NOAA will request an NFA letter.

Mr. Lindsay noted that NOAA's contractors found low levels of diesel oil contamination in the drinking water taken from taps on the island. In addition, bromoform was found at levels that will be considered unsafe in the next few years. Mr. Lindsay noted that he had informed in writing ADEC and the City of St. Paul of this contamination.

## **Lunch**

### **Island Project Status Report – St. George Island**

NOAA's Mr. Dennis Hall provided an overview of last season's activities on St. George.

Boneyard B. Sampling showed some contamination still there. Contaminated soils were excavated and taken to the ETC system for treatment. NFA will be requested.

Oil Drum Dump Site. Contaminated soils were removed to removal. Site still contaminated. Further characterization is planned for this field season.

Rest of sites (16-25) had no activity.

Former ballfield will be characterized this field season.

NFA requests will be requested for St. George TPA sites 12, 15, 16, 19, 22-4, and 22-5.

### **Review of minutes from March 7, 2000 and May 11, 2000 RAB meetings.**

Remove "not" from 3/7/2000 minutes, page 4, paragraph 2, PCS Stockpile Treatment, last sentence. Motion made and carried to approve minutes from 3/7/2000 St. George meeting with the recommended change.

Motion to approve minutes from 5/11/2000 St. Paul meeting carried.

### **Clean-up Program Status and FY01 Schedule.**

#### **TPA Sites**

Oil drum dumpsite. NOAA considers this site a FUDS and therefore in accordance with PL106-562, NOAA does not intend to conduct any further action at this site.

Vehicle Boneyard. If buried debris is not found then an NFA letter will be requested. If buried debris is found NOAA will evaluate whether excavation will more easily enable site closure than placement of a soil cover.

Little Polovina Boneyard. Closed, NFA letter received.

Dune Vehicle Boneyard. NFA letter requested.

Landfill, Cells A, B, C. NOAA intends to enter into a cooperative agreement with the City of St. Paul to develop a closure plan for Landfill Cell C and Cells A and B. NOAA intends to enter into an 8a contract with BSE to perform a corrective action at Cell B.

Pumphouse Lake. NFA request pending.

NMFS Fuel barges. NFA request pending.

Cliffside Landfills. NFA request pending.

Tract 46. additional site characterization will be performed, followed by corrective actions, if funds are available.

Former Gas Tank Farm. NFA letter received.

Diesel Tank Farm. corrective action pending.

Lukanin Bay Debris. limited site characterization followed by a removal action.

Salt Lagoon Diesel Seep. working on remedial design to be in sync with COE work on channel dredging. Environmental assessment of lagoon will be required.

Ice House Lake. Site voluntarily reopened by NOAA when contamination found.

Scoria Pits. Telegraph Hill and Ridgewall are FUDS sites.

Lake Hill. NFA request pending.

PCS Treatment. PCS Treatment will continue at the Blubber Dump stockpile site.

NOAA intends to enter into an 8(a) contract with BSE to continue work. Treated 1600 yards last year. Some asphalt contamination present that seems to have caused difficulties with treatment. Need to see if more treatment required for previously treated soils still showing contamination signs. If asphalt contaminated soil can't be treated this year it will be shipped off island.

Groundwater Well Monitoring. 40 wells will be monitored on a quarterly basis.

Jason Bourdukofsky commented that a local entity should be allowed to perform the quarterly monitoring. Mr. Lindsay and Louis Howard (ADEC) noted that by regulation such work could only be performed by a qualified individual. Qualifications include at least a four-year college science degree, two years of environmental experience, and certified by ADEC. So far no individuals on St. Paul have been identified that meet these qualifications. NOAA indicated that it is willing to entertain any proposals from qualified individuals or on island firms.

FUDS Sites, St. Paul. There were several reports reviewed by Mr. Lindsay. Results are shown in the FUDS table found on the Closure Status on St. Paul Island slide.

St. George. PCS stockpile treatment remains a priority on St. George. Approximately 4,350 yards of PCS were successfully treated last year. Mr. Lindsay noted that from now on NOAA will follow the two-party agreement that limits NOAA's cleanup responsibilities to regulations in force as of 1991. Consequently, benzene cleanup levels in treated soils will be set at 0.5 ppm instead of the newer regulatory standard of 0.02 ppm. Mr. Lindsay noted that the 0.02 ppm standard is being nearly achieved with the present treatment system, but achieving the lower standard for a relatively small amount of soils is becoming cost prohibitive.

Mr. Lindsay reviewed TPA Site Status and schedule of activities on St. George as of 31 January 2001. No dissenting comments were aired by RAB members.

The number of corrective actions implemented during FY 01 will be dependent on funding and project staffing. While NOAA intends to conduct some removal actions on St. George this coming field season, NOAA staff first needs to review earlier site investigations reports and discuss these with its intended contractor, Tanaq Corporation (or its 8a subsidiary).

Open Pit Site – a likely candidate for corrective action this year.

Ballfield/Former Landfill – NOAA will conduct a site investigation this year.

St. George Schoolyard Landfill – NOAA has an NFA letter on part of the area. Another part of the area is a non-TPA site and is still in need of closure. NOAA has pulled this property out of the transfer until cleanup issues are resolved.

FUDS Sites, St. George. Three sites, closed. No further problems known.

Other Issues. National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requirements must be met, and they will be very demanding. While Mr. Lindsay had sought input from St. Paul entities regarding NHPA compliance, he admitted that he failed to bring this matter to the attention of St. George Island. Mr. Lindsay stated that he would do so in the near future. NHPA compliance was not anticipated and is an additional workload. NOAA needs more help to perform the work required under this Act.

Coastal Zone Consistency Determination. This is another unanticipated requirement. NOAA will be working on this as resources permit.

Mapping. There were no adequate maps of the islands available. NOAA shared equally with a contribution by USGS to create new topographic maps of the islands, excepting Walrus Island. Mr. Lindsay noted that St. Paul Island, through Mr. Victor Mercurief (TDX Vice President of Real Estate) will submit Aleut place names for inclusion on the topographic maps. Mr. Lindsay encouraged St. George Island to similarly take advantage of this opportunity and provide Aleut place names. Bret Coburn (Tanaq Corporation) stated that Mr. Iliodor Philemonof had initiated naming. Mr. Coburn will attempt to submit place names for St. George. Mr. Lindsay provided RAB members with the point of contact, Mr. A.C. Brown, for USGS (Anchorage office) in this regard.

RAB members were encouraged to contact Mr. Lindsay if they believe the work priority should be shifted elsewhere.

**St. Paul Machine Shop Transformation to Public Safety Complex.** This item is no longer relevant and was removed from the agenda.

**Next Meeting Agenda Items, Date, Location.** It was suggested that the next meeting be held during the first or second week of June with meetings held on each island, possibly on a Tuesday and Wednesday.

### **Other Business/Comments.**

RAB members raised concern over the adequacy of funding under the new appropriations legislation and they inquired as to the supplemental appropriations process.

Mr. Bill Arterburn (BSE) suggested that sites should be prioritized to ensure that the most important were addressed with available funding. Mr. Lindsay offered a draft prioritization and is looking for comments from RAB members. This could be an agenda item at the next meeting. Several members encouraged NOAA to hire additional staff to allow the greatest progress with the available funds.

Several RAB members complimented NOAA on the management of the project over the past year and a half. Ditto on the presentation.

### **Handouts:**

Agenda

Minutes, March 7, 2000, St. George RAB meeting

Minutes, May 11, 2000, St. Paul RAB meeting

Island Project Status Report – St. George Island, Summary of FY00 Activities

The Pribilof Islands Transition Act, Public Law 106-562, Title I, Enacted December 23, 2000, Summary of Provisions

CD, Pribilof Islands Project Office. There were not enough copies for all members at the meeting. Copies can be obtained from Mr. Tom Simon at NOAA's Office in Seattle.