



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PUBLIC NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

AUGUST 8 – SEPTEMBER 18, 2001

DRAFT HAZARDOUS WASTE CLOSURE PLAN

BP EXPLORATION ALASKA
C-PAD HAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE UNIT
PRUDHOE BAY WESTERN OPERATING AREA
EPA NO. AKD 00064 3239

August 8, 2001

This Public Notice announces the thirty (30) - day public comment period for a draft hazardous waste closure plan for the C-Pad Hazardous Waste Storage Unit at BP Exploration Alaska's (BPXA's) Prudhoe Bay Western Operating Area. Details about the closure plan and where to get more information are included in this document.

PURPOSE

This Public Notice announces the proposal by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to approve the closure plan for BPXA's C-Pad Hazardous Waste Storage Unit in Prudhoe Bay's Western Operating Area. The C-Pad Hazardous Waste Storage Unit has been operating under the "interim status" provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Since the early 1980s, hazardous waste has been stored in containers at C-Pad. The closure plan describes the procedures to remove all wastes stored at the C-Pad storage unit and the tests to confirm that no component of the hazardous waste has been released to the environment.

YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE

You are invited to send in your written comments concerning the draft closure plan. Public comments will be accepted for thirty (30) days after the posting of this notice, from **August 8, 2001 through September 18, 2001**. Comments should include all reasonable available references, factual grounds and supporting material. A copy of the draft closure plan is available for review Monday through Friday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Noel Wien Library
Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Library System
1215 Cowles Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

U.S. EPA
Alaska Operations Office
Federal Building, Room 537
222 W. 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 95513

U.S. EPA Region 10
10th Floor Library
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

POSSIBLE PUBLIC HEARING

If sufficient interest is expressed in holding a public hearing, the EPA will hold hearings on Thursday, September 13, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. at the Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, and/or on September 18, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at the New Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, 222 West 7th Avenue, Room 154, Anchorage, Alaska.

The hearings will be held if significant written notices of opposition to the proposed action and sufficient requests for a public hearing are received. Persons wishing to request a public hearing should send in a written request within twenty (20) days of the date of this notice, by **August 28, 2001**, to the EPA at the address below.

EPA will cancel the public hearings if we do not receive sufficient requests by August 28, 2001. Even if the hearings are not held, all written comments postmarked on or before **September 18, 2001** will still be considered in reaching a final decision on this proposed action.

Please send written comments on this proposed action, or requests for a public hearing to:

**Robbie Hedeem
U.S. EPA Region 10, WCM-121
1200 S.W. Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101**

If you have not requested a hearing, but wish to find out if a hearing will take place, please call Robbie Hedeem at 1-800-424-4372, extension 0201, **after August 28, 2001**.

BACKGROUND

BP Exploration Alaska (BPXA)/Prudhoe Bay is a hazardous waste facility on the North Slope of Alaska. BPXA generates and stores wastes related to oil and gas production. Before shipment offsite, these wastes are placed in 55-gallon drums, which are then placed in overpack drums, and stored at the C-Pad Hazardous Waste Storage Unit. Initially, drums were stored directly on the gravel pad. Since 1988, the drums have been stored on wooden loading docks above the gravel pad. BPXA reports indicate that there have been no known releases of hazardous waste at the C-Pad storage unit.

BPXA will continue to operate as a hazardous waste storage facility. The POL Building at BP Base Operation Camp (BOC) will be the new site for container storage. The POL Building has been configured to serve as a storage unit for hazardous waste. No hazardous waste storage will occur at the Western Operating Area (WOA) C-Pad Storage Unit following completion of the procedures described in detail in the closure plan. Closure of the facility's other hazardous waste storage units, the POL Building and the Eastern Operating Area C-Pad storage unit, is described under separate closure plans.

DRAFT CLOSURE PLAN:

The closure plan for the WOA C-Pad hazardous waste storage unit describes removal of the drums from C-Pad, removal and decontamination of the wooden loading docks, and the sampling, analyses and quality control procedures associated with the collection of 34 soil samples. The soil samples include surface and subsurface locations in areas where the highest levels of activity occurred. Samples will be analyzed for chemicals known to have been stored at the site or potentially present due to past practices. Test results will be compared to performance standards which were derived from the lower of EPA's Region 9 Preliminary Remediation Goals (PRGs) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's (ADEC's) risk based Soil Cleanup Levels for the Arctic Zone. If contaminants are found above the performance standard for soils, the closure plan will be amended to address any further closure activities which may be required, such as additional soil and surface water sampling, soil excavation, or treatment. If the closure plan is amended, EPA will invite the public to comment on the proposed changes.

**Additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities
by calling 1-800-424-4372.**