



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PUBLIC NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

AUGUST 2 – SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

DRAFT HAZARDOUS WASTE CLOSURE PLAN

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

August 2, 2002

This Public Notice announces the 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 Prudhoe Bay Eastern Operating Area. Details about the closure plan and where to get more information are included below.

PURPOSE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve the closure plan for BP Exploration Alaska's (BPXA's) C-Pad Hazardous Waste Storage Unit in Prudhoe Bay's Eastern Operating Area (EOA). The C-Pad Hazardous Waste Storage Unit was operated under the "interim status" provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). From the early 1980s through 1993, hazardous waste was stored in containers at C-Pad. Previous investigations have demonstrated that a release of hazardous waste to the soil had occurred. This closure plan describes what steps will be taken to determine the impact, if any, from released hazardous waste to the groundwater in the vicinity of the unit.

YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE

You are invited to provide written comments on the draft closure plan. Public comments will be accepted from **August 2, 2002 through September 6, 2002**. Comments should include your name and address and 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

907/459-1020

U.S. EPA
Alaska Operations Office
Federal Building, Room 537
222 W. 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 95513
907/271-5083

U.S. EPA Region 10
10th Floor Library
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101
206/553-1259

POSSIBLE PUBLIC HEARING

If there is sufficient interest, the EPA will hold hearings on **Wednesday, September 4, 2002** at 6:30 p.m. at the Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, and/or on **Tuesday, September 3, 2002** at 2:00 p.m. at the New Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, 222 West 7th Avenue, Room 209, Anchorage, Alaska.

The hearings will be held if significant written notices of opposition to the proposed action and/or sufficient requests for a public hearing are received. Persons wishing to request a public hearing should send a written request postmarked or e-mailed by **August 17, 2002**, to the EPA at the address below.

EPA will cancel the public hearings if we do not receive sufficient requests by August 17, 2002. If the hearings are not held, all written comments postmarked or e-mailed on or before **September 6, 2002** 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:

Roberta Hedeem
U.S. EPA Region 10, WCM-121
1200 S.W. Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101
hedeem.roberta@epa.gov

To find out if EPA is planning to hold a hearing, please call Roberta Hedeem at 1-800-424-4372, extension 0201, **after August 21, 2002**.

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. BPXA currently operates the entire Prudhoe Bay facility, including both the Western Operating Area and Eastern Operating Area. Prior to 2000, ARCO Alaska, Inc. (ARCO) operated the EOA at Prudhoe Bay, including the EOA C-Pad Hazardous Waste Management Unit. ARCO also generated and stored wastes related to oil and gas production. Before shipment offsite, these wastes were generally placed in 55-gallon drums, which were then placed in larger overpack drums, and stored on wooden pallets at the EOA C-Pad Hazardous Waste Storage Unit. Investigations in 1996 revealed that there had been a release of hazardous waste to the soils at the unit. Soils were removed and treated. This closure plan focuses on the groundwater within and downgradient of the unit.

No hazardous waste has been stored at the EOA C-Pad Hazardous Waste Storage Unit since 1993, and no hazardous waste storage will occur at the unit following completion of the procedures described in detail in the closure plan.

CONTENTS OF THE CLOSURE PLAN

The closure plan for the EOA C-Pad Hazardous Waste Storage Unit describes the sampling, analyses and quality control procedures associated with the collection of groundwater samples. 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 EPA's National Water Quality Criteria, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's risk based standards and independently produced ecological risk based benchmarks. If contaminants are found above the performance standards, the closure plan will be amended to address any further closure activities which may be required, such as additional sampling, soil excavation and treatment, or submission of a site specific risk assessment. If the closure plan is amended, additional opportunity for public comment will be provided.

For people with disabilities: Please contact Roberta Hedeem at 1-800-424-4372, extension 0201, for requests for reasonable accommodations. For TYY users, please call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, and then give the operator Roberta Hedeem's phone number, above.