



Planned Remediation Activities at the Chariot, Alaska, Site

FACT SHEET

This fact sheet provides information about remediation work to be conducted at the Chariot, Alaska, Site. This site is managed by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management.

Site Description and History

The Chariot site is located in the Ogotoruk Valley in the Cape Thompson region of northwest Alaska. Project Chariot was part of the Plowshare Program, created in 1957 by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), a predecessor agency of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), to study peaceful uses for atomic energy. Project Chariot began in 1958 when a scientific field team chose Cape Thompson as a potential site to excavate a harbor using a series of nuclear explosions. AEC, with assistance from other agencies, conducted more than 40 pretest bioenvironmental studies of the Cape Thompson area between 1959 and 1962; however, the Plowshare Program work at the Project Chariot site was cancelled because of strong public opposition. No nuclear explosions were conducted at the site.

Planned Remediation

DOE is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to conduct remediation and abandonment activities of five test holes at the Chariot Site, near Cape Thompson. The test holes designated Able, Baker, Charlie, and Dog were installed by the Atomic Energy Commission around 1960 to evaluate subsurface site conditions as



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part of Project Chariot. Another test hole, X1, was likely an emplacement hole for a chemical explosives test that was not performed. Results from a limited soil investigation conducted in July 2010 indicate that some soil surrounding the test holes contain elevated concentrations of diesel range organics (DRO). The source of the DRO is refrigerated diesel used during the installation of the test holes to help stabilize the boreholes during drilling operations.

The test holes will be abandoned by removing liquids in the well casings, cutting and removing existing thermistor cables, and cutting off the casings at the permafrost level. All of the materials will be placed in containers and transported to a permitted offsite disposal location.

The test holes will be plugged and abandoned in accordance with State of Alaska regulations. The excavated areas will be graded and revegetated with native seed.

Site activities to remove and abandon the five test holes will be conducted during the summer months and precautions will be taken to minimize impact on the tundra and to protect the environment.



Test Hole Able

Contact Information

Site-specific documents related to the Chariot site are available on the LM website at <http://www.lm.doe.gov/chariot/Sites.aspx>.

For more information about the Chariot site, contact

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