

# Navy Proposed Plan, Icy Cape Former Distant Early Warning Line Station, Icy Cape, Alaska

The public comment period for the Proposed Plan at the former Distant Early Warning Line Station, Icy Cape, Alaska, will take place from March 17, 2025, through April 16, 2025. The Navy will accept comments on the Proposed Plan during the public comment period.

**A community engagement session will be held on March 24, 2025, at the North Slope Borough Assembly Office Chambers, 1274 Agvik Street, Utqiagvik, Alaska 99723 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

The Icy Cape Former Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line Station (site) is a remote, uninhabited plot of land located on the North Slope of Alaska between the villages of Point Lay and Wainwright. The developed portions of the site cover approximately 20 acres of land. The site comprises a large, constructed sand and gravel pad surrounded by and underlain with Arctic tundra. As shown in Figure 1, the only remaining features at the site are the gravel pad, two dilapidated gravel runways, two concrete foundations, and the three capped landfills (Landfills A, B, and C). Landfill A is 1.03 acres, Landfill B is 0.48 acres, and Landfill C is 0.75 acres.

The site was built on sand and gravel pads and comprises gravel runways, roads, drum storage/disposal areas, radar tower and associated electrical equipment, various Quonset huts and buildings, fuel tanks and associated pads, a machine shop, and three landfills. The landfills were used from 1957 until station closure in 1963. Based on assessments at other DEW Line Stations, contaminants related to operation of the site may include fuels (e.g., diesel, jet), polychlorinated biphenyls, solvents associated with maintenance activities, and pesticides.

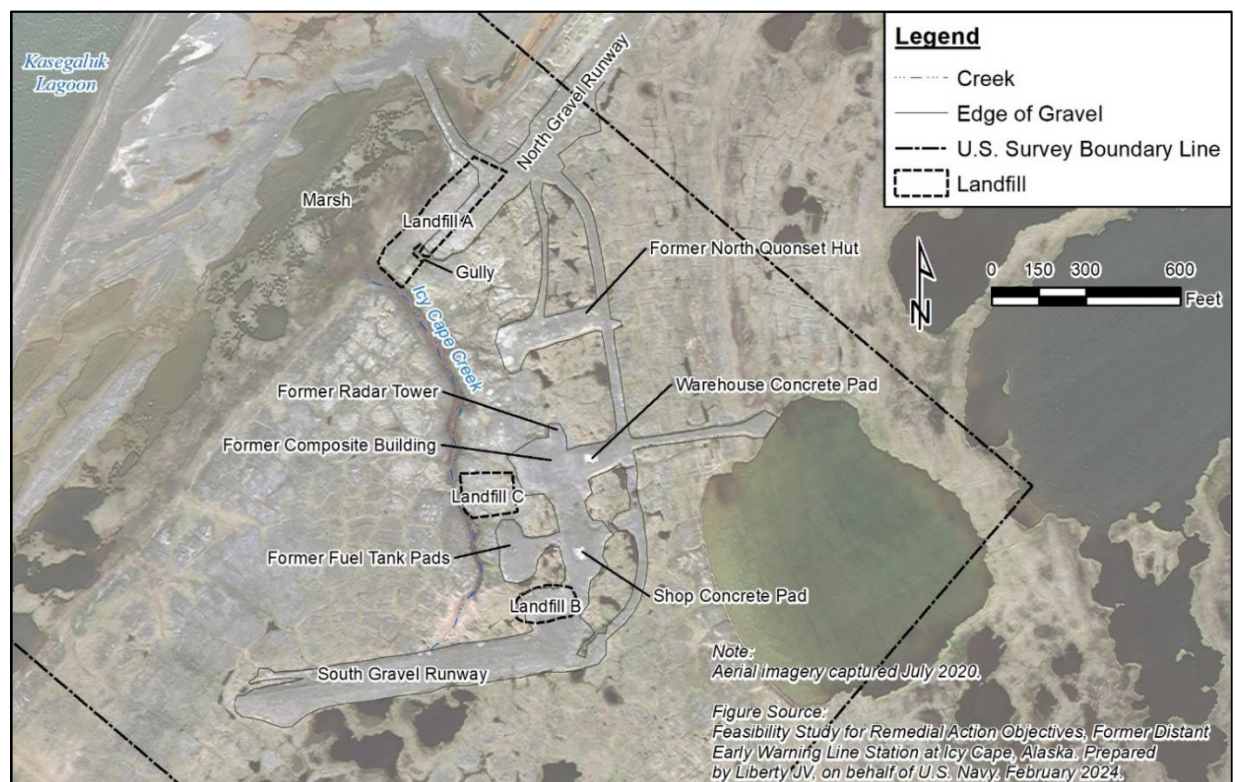


Figure 1: Site Map

## NATURE AND EXTENT OF CONTAMINATION

The nature and extent of contamination refers to an evaluation of the following:

- What contaminants are present in environmental media at and around the site
- How much of each contaminant is present (concentration)
- How far the contamination spreads

The remedial investigation determined that the following contaminants (grouped by media type) were present at concentrations high enough to be considered constituents of potential concern (COPCs) for human health, or chemicals of potential ecological concern (COPEC):

### SOIL AND SEDIMENT

- Metals
  - » Arsenic
  - » Total chromium
  - » Hexavalent chromium
- Semivolatile Organic Compounds
  - » Benzoic acid
- Volatile Organic Compounds
  - » Acetone
  - » Bromomethane
  - » Toluene
  - » Total xylenes
- Polychlorinated biphenyls
  - » Aroclor-1254

### GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER

- Metals
  - » Arsenic
  - » Barium
  - » Total Chromium
  - » Hexavalent chromium
- Semivolatile Organic Compounds
  - » Pentachlorophenol
- Volatile Organic Compounds
  - » Total xylenes
- Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) as
  - » TPH-Gasoline Range Organics
  - » TPH-Residual Range Organics

## SITE RISK ASSESSMENT

As part of the investigation, risks to both human health and ecological receptors (such as plants, fish, invertebrates, etc.) were evaluated. The risk assessments performed indicated that no unacceptable risks are associated with exposure to contaminants present in the environmental media at the site and that no further assessment of human health or ecological risk is recommended.

## REMEDIAL ACTION OBJECTIVES

Remedial action objectives (RAOs) are used to develop general response actions and are specific cleanup objectives that are established on the basis of the nature and extent of impacts, the resources that are currently and potentially threatened, and the potential for human and environmental exposure.

Based on the remedial investigation findings and evaluation in the feasibility study, the following RAO was developed to protect human health and the environment:

- Contain and prevent the migration of chemicals from solid waste/debris and soil within the landfill, to the landfill cover, surrounding soil, and surface water to prevent potential future exceedances of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation media quality criteria, human health risks, and ecological risks.

## REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVES

Four options for remedial action at the site were evaluated using Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation criteria. Then, the alternatives were ranked according to the evaluation. More details on the alternatives and ranking are available in the Proposed Plan and supporting documents.

Table 1: Comparison of Alternatives

	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2 Institutional Controls	Alternative 3 Continue Prior Landfill Hand Tool Repair Methods	Alternative 4 Robust Landfill Repair Methods
No Action	✓			
Access Restriction (Signage)		✓	✓	✓
Soil Excavation Restrictions		✓	✓	✓
Groundwater Use Restrictions		✓	✓	✓
Environmental Covenant		✓	✓	✓
Site Inspection		✓	✓	✓
Engineered Controls Inspection and Maintenance		✓	✓	✓
Cover and encapsulate			✓	✓
On-Site Material (Sand/Gravel) Backfill			✓	✓
Manual Excavation			✓	✓
Mechanical Excavation				✓
Sling Load Materials			✓	✓
Engineered Drainage Channels				✓
Backfill stabilization geo cells				✓
5-year frequency of major repair event			✓	
5-year frequency of minor repair event				✓
10-year frequency of major repair event				✓

Source: Liberty JV. 2024. Feasibility Study for Remedial Action Objectives. Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Northwest. Former Distant Early Warning Line Station at Icy Cape, Alaska. February.

## RECOMMENDED CLEANUP ALTERNATIVE

Alternative 4 is the preferred alternative because it received the highest overall rating against the other alternatives.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments or ask questions about the preferred remedial alternative for the site during the public comment period and at the public meeting. The Navy will summarize and respond to public comments in a Responsiveness Summary, which will become part of the official Record of Decision for the site.

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The Proposed Plan fulfills the public participation requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act § 117 (a), which specifies that the lead agency (the Navy) must publish a plan outlining remedial alternatives for the site and identify the preferred alternative.

*For more information or to submit written comments,  
contact the Public Affairs Office at:*

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