

GERSTLE RIVER TEST SITE

Army Cleanup Program

Installation Action Plan Final

June 2024

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Installation Action Plan (IAP) provides evidence that the Army is firmly committed to expeditious identification and cleanup of environmental contamination, and that the installation has a credible, organized program to carry out that commitment. The IAP provides an outline of the total multi-year environmental cleanup program for each site with ongoing or future planned restoration activity and includes the (1) environmental restoration requirements, (2) the rationale for the selected technical approach, and (3) foundation to develop corresponding financial needs for each cleanup site.

INSTALLATION OVERVIEW

Installation Name: GERSTLE RIVER TEST SITE

Installation City: FORT WAINWRIGHT

Installation County: FAIRBANKS N

Installation State: AK

Regulatory Participation - Federal: US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region 10

Regulatory Participation - State: Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)

ACRONYMS

Acronym	Definition
ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
AK	Alaska
CC	Compliance-related Cleanup
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980
CMI(C)	Corrective Measures Implementation (Construction)
CMI(O)	Corrective Measures Implementation (Operations)
COC	Contaminant of Concern
CRL	Cleanup Restoration & Liabilities
CRREL	Cold Regions Research Engineering and Laboratory
CS	Confirmation Sampling
DD	Decision Document
DES	Design
DRO	Diesel Range Organics
ENV	Environmental
FS	Feasibility Study
FYR	Five-Year Review
GREA	Gerstle River Expansion Area
GRO	Gasoline Range Organics
GRTS	Gerstle River Test Site
IAP	Installation Action Plan
IC	Institutional Controls
ID	Identification
IM	Interim Measure
IR	Installation Restoration
IRA	Interim Remedial Action
LTM	Long-Term Management
LUC	Land Use Control
MR	Munitions Response
MRSP	Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol
NBC	Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical
NPL	National Priorities List
OCA	Operation Cleanup Alaska
ORAP	Operational Range Assessment Program
PA	Preliminary Assessment
PR	Periodic Review

Acronym	Definition
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
RA(C)	Remedial Action (Construction)
RA(O)	Remedial Action (Operations)
RC	Response Complete
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RD	Remedial Design
RFA	RCRA Facility Assessment
RI	Remedial Investigation
RIP	Remedy-in-Place
ROD	Record of Decision
RRSE	Relative Risk Site Evaluation
SC	Site Closeout
SI	Site Inspection
TAPP	Technical Assistance for Public Participation
UIC	Underground Injection Control
USEPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
UST	Underground Storage Tank
UU/UE	Unlimited Use/Unrestricted Exposure
UVOST	Ultra Violet Optical Screening Tool

PHASE TRANSLATION TABLE

CERCLA Phase	RCRA Phase	RCRA UST Phase
Preliminary Assessment (PA)	RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA)	Initial Site Characterization (ISC)
Site Inspection (SI)	Confirmation Sampling (CS)	Investigation (INV)
Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS)	RCRA Facility Investigation/Corrective Measures Study (RFI/CMS)	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)
Remedial Design (RD)	Design (DES)	Design (DES)
Interim Remedial Action (IRA)	Interim Measure (IM)	Interim Remedial Action (IRA)
Remedial Action (Construction) (RA(C))	Corrective Measures Implementation (Construction) (CMI(C))	Implementation (Construction) (IMP(C))
Remedial Action (Operations) (RA(O))	Corrective Measures Implementation (Operations) (CMI(O))	Implementation (Operations) (IMP(O))
Long-Term Management (LTM)	Long-Term Management (LTM)	Long-Term Management (LTM)

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Number of Open Sites with Response Complete/Total Open IR Sites: 1/1

Number of Open Sites with Response Complete/Total Open MR Sites: 0/0

Number of Open Sites with Response Complete/Total Open CC Sites: 0/1

SITE-LEVEL INFORMATION

2202A.1006_CC-GRTS-01_ADMINISTRATIVE AREA USTS

Env Site ID: CC-GRTS-01

Cleanup Site: ADMINISTRATIVE AREA USTS

Alias: #

Regulatory Driver: RCRA-I

RIP Date: 4/29/2016

RC Date: 4/29/2016

RC Reason: Study Completed, No Cleanup Required

SC Date: 9/30/2054

Program: ENV Restoration, Army

Subprogram: IR

NPL Status: No

Hazardous Ranking Score: 0

RRSE: Medium

MRSPP: N/A

Phase	Start	End
ISC:	1/15/1980	9/15/1980
INV:	9/15/2009	7/15/2011
CAP:	1/15/2013	7/23/2015
DES:	--	--
IRA:	--	--
IMP(C):	7/23/2015	4/29/2016
IMP(O):	--	--
LTM:	4/29/2016	9/30/2054

Site Narrative: The Gerstle River Test Site (GRTS) is an Army active maneuver training area located approximately 35 miles southeast of Delta Junction, near Fort Greely, Alaska, and approximately 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks, Alaska. Site 2202A.1006 consists of four underground storage tanks (UST) #000, 449, 450, and 451. Tank No. 449 was excavated in 1991 and the other three USTs were excavated in 1994. In 2009-2010, the Army conducted a UST investigation which included both soil sampling and using Ultra Violet Optical Screening Tool (UVOST). In 2014-2016, a decision document closed all the tanks in the Admin Area and as a part of this closure there is a requirement for tanks 450 and 451 to have an annual land use control (LUC) inspection to prevent potential exposure to contaminants of concern (COC) in the soil. Cleanup/Exit Strategy- Because hazardous substances pollutants or contaminants will remain at the site at concentrations exceeding levels that allow for unlimited use/unrestricted exposure (UU/UE) the Army is responsible for implementation maintenance reporting and enforcement of LUCs/institutional controls (IC). It is assumed this responsibility will be maintained by the Army. Results of an annual LUC inspection are included in the GRTS LUC Report.

2202A.1009_CCGRTS-002_GERSTLE RIVER TEST SITE

Env Site ID: CCGRTS-002

Cleanup Site: GERSTLE RIVER TEST SITE

Alias: #

Regulatory Driver: CERCLA

RIP Date: 9/30/2031

RC Date: 9/30/2031

RC Reason: Not assigned

SC Date: 9/30/2031

Program: Compliance-related Cleanup

Subprogram: CC

NPL Status: No

Hazardous Ranking Score: 0

RRSE: N/A

MRSPP:

Phase	Start	End
PA:	1/15/2014	9/15/2014
SI:	10/15/2014	9/30/2027
RI/FS:	10/1/2027	9/30/2031
RD:	--	--
IRA:	--	--
RA(C):	--	--
RA(O):	--	--
LTM:	--	--

Site Narrative: GRTS was a chemical weapons test site for the Army from 1954 through 1967. It is comprised of the GRTS and the Gerstle River Expansion Area (GREA) surrounding the GRTS which together total 80,000 acres and is located approximately 30 miles southeast of Delta Junction, Alaska. Weapons testing during this period included static detonation of various munitions releasing nerve agents, VX and GB, and dynamic firing of projectiles with release of GB and VX to the atmosphere. In 1967 all tests using chemical agents at the GRTS were suspended. At the conclusion of testing, the Army conducted several efforts to remove material and debris created from the various test operations. Two records reviews in 1987 and 2004 were conducted to locate any potentially remaining chemical agents. A Phase I Assessment was conducted in 2008 as part of the Operational Range Assessment Program (ORAP). Various water sampling events were conducted over the years. In 2004 the facility was demolished and buried on-site under the Facility Reduction Program. Additional investigations under other programs were conducted to clean up the source area. This included an underground injection control (UIC) assessment of the facility septic system and potential chemical agent decontamination discharge line and sump. The sump and outfall were investigated and decommissioned in the fall of 2017. The test grids and disposal pits which supported the test activities were cleared but never fully investigated. The GRTS is administratively broken into three sites. Site 2202A.1009 is intended to capture all of the potential chemical weapon unitions features and consists of eleven Test Grids; a Test Grid Debris Burial Area; nineteen Ground Scars and stains (areas of concern); Blueberry Lake Disposal Pit 1 and 2; Blueberry Lake Munitions Recovery and Disposal area; Suspected Mustard Agent Burial Pits 1 and 2; an Operation Cleanup Alaska (OCA) disposal pit; Cold Regions Research Engineering and Laboratory (CRREL) areas G and H (CRREL areas A-F captured under other features); a Rocket Motor Storage Yard; a Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) Toxic Gas Yard; Explosives Storage Area; and a Test Boring. Previous investigations have not identified any specific COCs. The US Army Technical Center for Explosive Safety is currently preparing a performance work statement for site investigation of these areas. Cleanup/Exit Strategy- A probability assessment and a chemical safety submission are needed if

additional investigation/evaluation is required to determine whether there is a threat to human health and/or the environment associated with chemical warfare material burial.

SITE SUMMARY

SITE CLOSEOUT SUMMARY

CRL ID	Site Name	Site Closeout Date
2202A.1001	GRTS-001_GERSTLE RIVER ADMIN AREA	9/16/2023
2202A.1002	GRTS-002_EXPANDED GERSTLE RIVER T.S.	10/31/1995
2202A.1003	GRTS-003_BLUEBERRY LAKE ACCIDENTAL SPILL	10/31/1992
2202A.1004	GRTS-004_DISPOSAL PIT NW OF CHEMICAL TES	10/31/1992
2202A.1005	GRTS-005_DISPOSAL PIT E OF BLUEBERRY LK	10/31/1992
2202A.1007	CCGRTS-001_CLASS V UNDERGROUND INJECTION	10/11/2018

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community Involvement Plan (Date Last Reviewed):	N/A
Technical Review Committee Establishment Date:	N/A
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Establishment Date:	N/A
RAB Adjournment Date:	N/A
RAB Adjournment Reason:	N/A
Reasons for Not Establishing RAB:	No sufficient, sustained community interest in a RAB has been expressed by the community
RAB Date of Solicitation from Community:	N/A
RAB Results of Solicitation:	N/A
Current Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP):	N/A
TAPP Title:	N/A
Potential TAPP:	N/A
Administrative Record Location:	N/A
Information Repository Location:	N/A

FIVE-YEAR / PERIODIC REVIEW SUMMARY

Status	Review Type	Start Date	End Date	Plans Narrative	Actions Narrative	Results Narrative
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A