

Abandoned Well Pump Station ACTION PLAN



Pilot Station, Alaska

Prepared by

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
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INTRODUCTION

In April 2009, Pilot Station Traditional Council applied for an Environmental Site Assessment of the Abandoned Well Pump Station through the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC) Brownfields Program. Based on the hazards posed to human health and the environment, this site was ranked as a top priority and selected to receive a *Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)* and this *Action Plan*.

The EPA defines a brownfield as ‘real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant.’

The information contained in this Plan is based on the Phase I ESA, communication with the Pilot Station Tribal Council Environmental Department, interviews with local residents, and communication with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Brownfield State Response Program.

PURPOSE

This document is an Action Plan, with the general purpose of providing the Pilot Station community with relevant information to inform future decisions regarding the Abandoned Well Pump Station. This document will provide site-specific background information, summarize major findings of the Environmental Site Assessment, outline future recommended actions, and identify potential funding opportunities.

Sections in this Action Plan include:

1. Site Description
2. Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Findings
3. Recommended Actions
4. Potential Funding Opportunities

1. SITE DESCRIPTION

In April 2009, Pilot Station Traditional Council applied for a Phase I ESA with YRITWC for an assessment of an Abandoned Well Pump Station. YRITWC hired Chilkat Environmental to complete the work, and travelled with one of its professionals on September 1-2, 2009 to participate in the Phase I ESA.

A generator was used to power a pump that extracted groundwater for storage in a tank. The facility was installed in the 1970s and was used through the 1980s. Its service ended when another source of groundwater was used to meet the community's growing needs. The facility consisted of an estimated 5000 gallon diesel tank in an earthen containment berm, a shed containing the generator and well pump, and the water tank. In 1997, the generator, well pump and fuel tank were removed from the site. The water tank still remains at the site.

The subject property is located on a hill an estimated 30 feet in elevation above the community of Pilot Station (see Figure 1). The land it resides upon is defined as US Survey No. 4489 Tract C, Lot 3. Figure 2 shows the spatial relationship between the water tank, generator, and fuel tank and the sample sites of the contaminated soil associated to those areas – generator (2, 2a, 2c); fuel tank (A, B, E).

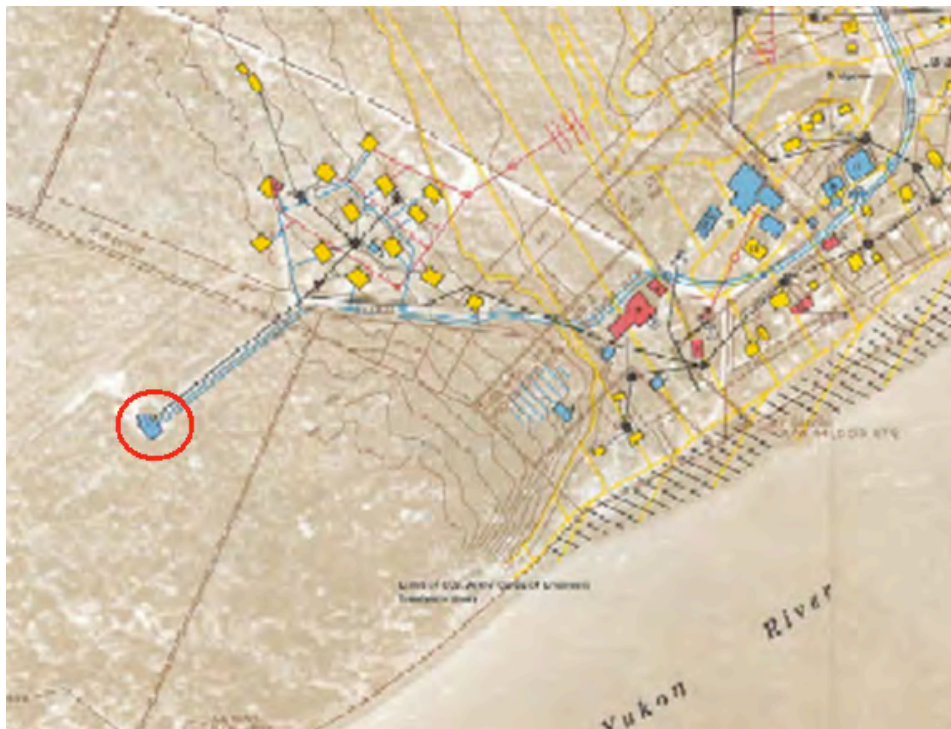


Figure 1: 1979 Pilot Station DCCED Community Map excerpt demonstrating location of the subject property.

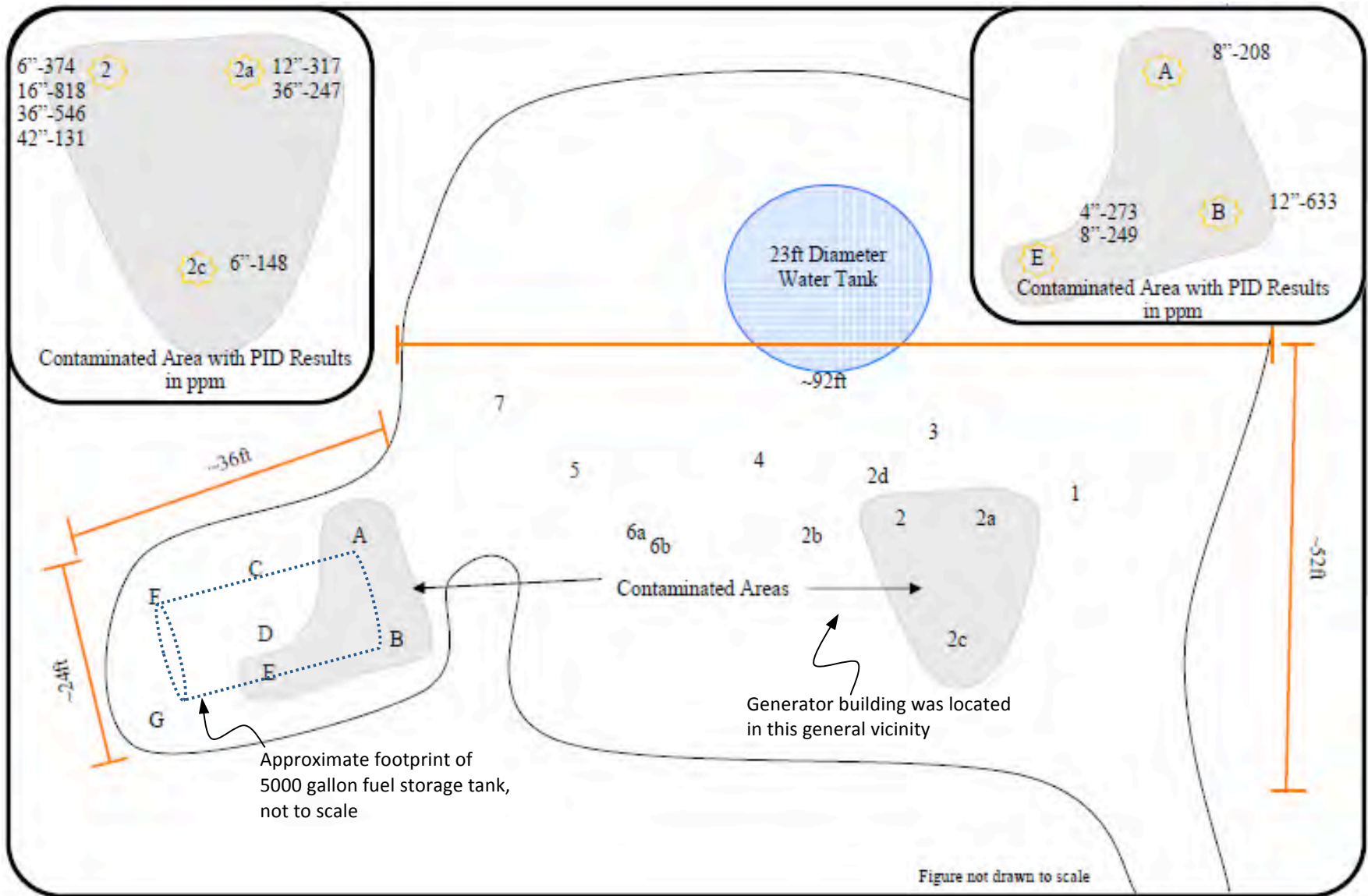


Figure 2: Site drawing demonstrating petroleum contaminated areas and PID (photo ionization detector) readings.

2. PHASE I ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT FINDINGS (Chilkat Environmental)

Chilkat Environmental and YRITWC staff gathered information through records review, physical investigation of site, and interviews with community members including Robert Myers – Environmental Coordinator for Pilot Station Traditional Council.

In the ESA report produced by Chilkat Environmental - which conducted the investigation with YRITWC - findings indicate the presence of contamination from petroleum products at the subject property for this Phase I ESA. A Phase II Site Characterization is recommended to determine the level and extent of contamination. It is believed that impacts at the site occurred during use of BLM property by the City of Pilot Station. The subject property is now owned by ADOT in association with the Pilot Station Airport.

3. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

STEP 1: Site Control

- a) Post signs and participate in community meetings to educate the public about the hazards and safety issues of the site.
- b) The area should be blocked off by using caution tape or boards to prevent children from playing on the abandoned water tank or disturbing soil.

STEP 2: Planning For Clean-Up

- a) Hold a community meeting to determine property reuse goal.
- b) Establish planning committee (city, tribe, individuals, partnering organizations).
- c) Work and meet regularly with planning committee and partnering organizations to develop clean-up plan.
- d) Identify resources:
 - o *Local*: equipment, HAZWOPER trained individuals, and area suitable for soil stockpiling/remediation.
 - o *Regional*: partnering organizations, funding agencies.
 - o *State/Federal*: ADEC and EPA assessment and/or clean-up funding.

STEP 3: Planning For Reuse

- a) Work with planning committee and partnering organizations to develop reuse plan.
- b) Target potential funding agency and participate in application process for funds.

4. POTENTIAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The EPA Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) provides an opportunity for tribes to build capacity and management capability to implement environmental programs administered by the U.S. EPA. Under the Program, tribes can tailor capacity-building through an integrated plan that may include financial assistance complemented and/or supplemented with additional assistance through project and program-specific grants.
<http://www.epa.gov/region08/tribes/gap.html>

ATTACHMENT: RESOURCE CONTACTS

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