

SUPERFUND

Fact Sheet

STANDARD STEEL AND METALS SALVAGE YARD SITE

Anchorage, Alaska



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

August 2002

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites your comments on its proposal to delete the Standard Steel and Metals Salvage Yard Superfund site from the National Priorities List. Cleanup at the site has been completed.

EPA will accept and evaluate all public comments before finalizing this deletion. Comments will be accepted through **September 15, 2002**, and should be sent to the EPA point of contact:

Beverly Gaines
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, ECL-110
Seattle, Washington 98101

Why is This Site Being Deleted?

After conducting a final inspection of the salvage yard on August 27, 2001, EPA and the State of Alaska have determined that all cleanup activities have been successfully completed. EPA has also determined that no further cleanup is needed at the site to protect human health and the environment. Deleting the site would not prevent EPA from taking actions at the site if unforeseen problems arise in the future.

Where Can I Get More Information?

EPA published a notice of intent to delete the Standard Steel and Salvage Yard from the National Priorities List in the Federal Register on August 14, 2002. The notice and additional information about the site are available for review at the locations listed at the end of this fact sheet.

If you have questions about the proposed deletion, please contact Beverly Gaines by e-mail at gaines.beverly@epa.gov, or by phone at 206-553-1066 (toll-free at 1-800-424-4372).

How Will Future Protection be Ensured?

The site has institutional controls in place to restrict unauthorized access, prevent use of groundwater, and restrict future site use. The Alaskan Railroad Corporation, the current landowner, has signed a legal agreement that ensures future site use will adhere to these restrictions.

Because hazardous substances remaining at the site restrict use of the area, EPA is required by law to review the cleanup every five years. These reviews will ensure that the cleanup continues to protect human health and the environment. The first review will be completed in early 2003.

Background

The Standard Steel and Metals Salvage Yard site was a 6.2 acre metal salvage yard in Anchorage, Alaska. The site is located in a heavy industrial district near the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Yakutat Street, adjacent to Ship Creek. A residential area is located a half mile southeast of the site and Elmendorf Air Force Base is a third of a mile to the North.

Beginning in 1955, various metal recycling and salvage businesses operated at the site. During recycling and salvage activities, electrical transformers and batteries were handled. Release of hazardous substances occurred from these activities, as well as inappropriate burial or burning of transformer oil. On-site soil and groundwater was contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), lead, and dioxin/furans.

Because of concerns for human health and the environment, EPA conducted a series of removal actions from 1986 to 1988. EPA

removed 1000 gallons of PCB contaminated oil, eighty-two 55 gallon drums of hazardous waste, and thousands of pounds of lead-acid batteries. The Standard Steel and Metals Salvage Yard was added to EPA's National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites in August 1990. On July 16, 1996, EPA published cleanup decisions for the site in a Record of Decision (ROD), with more extensive cleanup beginning in March of 1998.

Cleanup consisted of removing all remaining scrap debris and regulated material stockpiled at the yard to off-site recycling and disposal centers. Contaminated soil and debris were excavated and buried in a regulated landfill on-site. This landfill is protected with more than three feet of layered cover, water drainage, and flood protection systems. The old erosion control wall on the bank of Ship Creek was replaced with a natural erosion protection system. This system uses native vegetation and artificial logs to secure the stream bank and provide habitat for wildlife.

More Information

For more information on the Standard Steel & Metals Salvage Yard, please contact:

David Croxton, US EPA
206-553-6694 or toll free at 1-800-424-4372

The notice of intent to delete the site from the National Priorities List, as well as other written information about the site, is available for review at the following locations:

Environmental Protection Agency Region 10,
Superfund Record Center
1200 Sixth Avenue, ECL-076
Seattle, Washington 98101
206-553-4494 or toll free at 1-800-424-4372

Alaska Resource Library & Information Services (ARLIS)
3150 C Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99513
907-272-7547

For people with disabilities: Please contact Lilibeth Serrano at 206-553-1388 (toll free at 1-800-424-4372) if you have any special requests for reasonable accommodations. For TTY users: Please call the Federal Way Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and give the operator Lilibeth Serrano's phone number.