

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS) IN ALASKA - PLANES, BARGES, and BEARS

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Alaska conjures many images of a great land with high mountains, snow, and wildlife. The reality is this and so much more: isolation, bitter cold, short days, long days, and mosquitoes. We will present an overview of the FUDS program in Alaska. The presentation will focus on the extremes that must be faced when planning actions in remote locations with short construction seasons and external factors that drive the planning. Alaska presents a unique environment for construction. Extremes of environment, native priorities, logistics of site access, and unreliable communication add to the complexity of the planning requirements. Before and after pictures from various FUDS projects will also be provided. The presentation will include:

- Explanation and history of the Defense Early Warning (DEW) Line System and the White Alice Communication System constructed throughout Alaska during the Cold War era;
- FUDS program history and background;
- Overview of FUDS program in Alaska including history and listing of DEW line and White Alice Station removal actions;
- Examples and images of typical stations;
- Examples and images of unique project features such as:
- Remoteness of locations;
- Site access and mobilization (barge access, overland access, winter overland access, winter frozen sea ice access, air access);
- Logistics and supplies (work camp, water and sanitation, mail, supplies);
- Limitation of work season due to climate and location (sub-arctic marine environment, extended daylight hours in summer, limited daylight hours in winter, temperature extremes, insects, wildlife, native issues);
- Typical removal actions (building and antenna demolition, asbestos, PCB, lead paint, POL pipeline and tank removal, contaminated soil and water removal);
- Disposal issues (no hazardous waste disposal, limited landfill access);

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