



April 2, 2025

To whom it may concern,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is committed to protecting community health and the environment and to providing timely communication about Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) projects in the Susitna area. FUDS were formerly used for military purposes and transferred from Department of Defense control prior to October 17, 1986.

In addition to ongoing communication in the communities, USACE also re-evaluates community interest in forming a local Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) every 2 years. The last RAB assessment conducted by USACE for the Susitna area was in 2023.

For this current (2025) assessment, AECOM is assisting USACE in seeking community input as it considers whether to establish a RAB for the ongoing environmental investigation and cleanup of the Susitna area FUDS.

Active FUDS Projects in the Susitna Area – Nike Site Bay

Nike Site Bay is approximately 12 miles north of Anchorage, on the western bank of the Knik Arm, adjacent to Goose Bay. Nike Site Bay was part of the Nike-Hercules Missile System in Alaska. Nike Site Bay was operated by the U.S. Army from 1956 to 1979 and consisted primarily of battery control and launch control areas. The site was deactivated in 1979 and was acquired by the State of Alaska.

In 2021, a Remedial Investigation (RI) was conducted to delineate the full extent of trichloroethylene (TCE) in the soil and groundwater at the Launch Control Area. The 2021 effort collected site-specific data needed to evaluate risk associated with FUDS contamination and help determine appropriate remediation strategies. Additional RI addendums were completed in 2023 and 2024. Based on this investigation, a Feasibility Study will be completed in 2025 to determine remedial options. A pilot study is also currently being conducted to determine the feasibility of treating the TCE-impacted groundwater by injecting in-situ chemical reduction amendments into the groundwater.

Active FUDS Projects in the Susitna Area – Susitna Gunnery Range

The Susitna Gunnery Range consists of 86,570 acres of land. Approximately 33,621 acres of the site were used as an anti-aircraft artillery range and impact area. Elmendorf Air Force Base, which served as the firing point for the range, is east of the FUDS site, directly across Cook Inlet. The range's impact area extends across the Knik Arm to the Susitna Flats area south of Wasilla (22 miles to the northeast). Unexploded

ordnance has been identified in several areas within the impact range fan. The Army used the Susitna Gunnery Range from 1952 to 1958 as an impact area and safety zone for training anti-aircraft artillery troops in firing long-range weapons. The land composing the former Susitna Gunnery Range is owned by the Alaska Mental Health Trust, the University of Alaska, the State of Alaska, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, private individuals, and various industrial companies.

An RI was conducted in 2011 to evaluate the nature and extent of Munitions and Explosives of Concern, and a Feasibility Study was conducted in 2013 at two of the project sites. Decision Documents (DD) were signed in 2015, a No Further Action DD was approved for the North Point Mackenzie Gravel Site project, and an informational Land Use Control (LUC) DD was approved as the selected remedy for the Susitna Gunnery Range Munitions project. In January 2024, this selected remedy was determined to still be effective based on the completion of the first five-year review (FYR). However, in order to be protective in the long term, USACE still needs to implement informational LUCs for the associated land parcels. Implementation of LUCs for the associated land parcels is planned to be completed by 2026. The next FYR will be completed by January 2029 to ensure the remedy remains effective.

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

A RAB provides the community with the opportunity to become involved in the environmental restoration process either as a RAB member or through attendance at RAB meetings. RABs offer members the opportunity to influence cleanup decisions through discussion and to provide input to the decision makers. Because representatives of the environmental agencies overseeing cleanup participate in the RAB, the RAB offers members and the public an opportunity to share their questions, concerns, and ideas with agencies involved in the cleanup. A RAB may consist of up to 20 members but should be no smaller than is necessary to adequately reflect the diversity of community interests. A RAB is advisory and is co-chaired by a representative of USACE and a public citizen. Community board members function in a voluntary capacity for 1-to-2-year terms. A RAB is dissolved when the remedial response has been completed, or if there is no longer sufficient interest in continuing the RAB.

RAB member responsibilities include:

- *Representing community and stakeholder concerns regarding the active projects within the Susitna area*
- *Participating in one to three RAB meetings per year, which are held locally to solicit input on the cleanup at the active projects within the Susitna area*
- *Reviewing and providing written comments on project documents*
- *Providing individual input in an open, honest, and constructive manner in regard to the remedial action at the active projects within the Susitna FUDS Property and acting as a conduit for exchange of information*
- *Reporting back to the community about the outcome of each RAB meeting*

Community Input

USACE will use community feedback as it considers whether or not to establish a RAB. This letter and brief survey will help determine if there is sufficient community interest in establishing a RAB for FUDS in the Susitna area.

Please complete the attached survey and mail your response to:

RAB Assessment Team
c/o Tasha Michael
AECOM
3900 C Street, Ste. 403
Anchorage, AK 99503

Alternatively, your responses may be emailed to Tasha Michael at tasha.michael@aecom.com.

A decision on whether a Susitna area RAB should be established is expected in 2025. If you have any questions or would like more information about the Susitna area FUDS properties, please call USACE, Office of Public Affairs at 907-753-2520, or email Public.Affairs3@usace.army.mil. Thank you for your interest in the FUDS program.

Sincerely,



Joshua Barsis
Alaska FUDS Program Manager

Enc: Survey



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALASKA DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

Susitna Area Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)
Letter of Interest Survey Questions

Please Respond by May 2, 2025

1. Responsibilities of RAB members require a time commitment including: participation at one to three meetings per year and other tasks, such as reviewing and providing comments on project documents, developing operating procedures, and reviewing meeting materials. Would you be interested in participating in a Susitna area RAB as an active RAB member?
2. Would you be representing any group or organization?