



State of Vermont
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Waste Management & Prevention Division
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September 6, 2017

Town of Alburgh
Attn: Mr. Tyler Gotshall, Select Board Chair
1 North Main Street
Alburgh, Vermont 05440

RE: Site Management Activity Completed (SMAC)
Former ATLAS Missile Base, 35 Missile Base Road, Alburgh, VT
SMS Site #77-0025

Dear Mr. Gotshall:

The Sites Management Section (SMS) has recently conducted a review of the above referenced site file. Information contained within our site file includes the following:

- The property consists of 8.95 acres and was used by the Department of Defense (DoD) from circa 1960-1965 as a missile defense site. The property is fenced on all sides with a gated entrance. The empty underground silo, former launch control center, and underground structures remain on the site, but access is reportedly sealed. The former underground missile silo is approximately 70 feet in diameter and 187 feet deep and is filled with water.
- The Town of Alburgh purchased the property from the U.S. Department of Defense in 1965.
- The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) commissioned a Confirmation Study in 1987 under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) to determine the presence or absence of contamination that may have been caused by the DoD. Soil sampling, rock coring, groundwater and surface water sampling was conducted across the site. The work was completed by Woodward-Clyde Consultants, and documented in a Final Engineering Report, dated July 1, 1988. Below, the study's main findings are listed.
 - o Onsite structures included: two 20'x40' corrugated steel structures; an underground concrete and steel missile silo (70' dia x 187' deep); an underground launch control center, an underground nitrogen fuel tank; a septic system; and a concrete foundation structure.
 - o The property was being used by the Town of Alburgh for storage and as a machine shop facility.
 - o An interview with the Plattsburgh Air Force Base, base historian revealed that all maintenance and refueling of the missiles happened at the base, not at the launch site.
 - o (9) shallow soil samples, (4) composite samples from 2', 5' and 15' depths during the well drilling, and (1) background sample were obtained across the site and analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) and total metals.
 - o (4) groundwater monitoring wells were advanced across the site. Groundwater samples were analyzed for VOCs, TPH and dissolved metals.
 - o The sand filter (leachfield) around the septic system was also analyzed for VOCs, TPH and total metals to determine if contaminants were disposed of via the septic system.
 - o Water samples were collected from inside of the nitrogen fuel tank location and from the stairway to the launch control center and analyzed for VOCs, TPH and total metals.
 - o A sample of a water seep near the nitrogen fuel tank was also collected and analyzed for VOCs, TPH and total metals.
 - o Sampling results



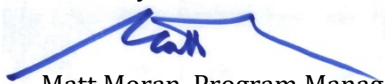
- TPH levels that were reported ranged from Below Detection Limits (BDL) to 2400 mg/kg (D-8 drainage ditch). However, no individual VOCs were reported above any Soil Screening Value (SSV) thresholds. No significant metal contamination was identified in any samples.
 - No elevated levels of VOCs or TPH were reported in groundwater across the site. Sodium and Manganese concentrations exceeded Vermont Groundwater Enforcement Standards (VTGES) in several wells. However, those were not contaminants of concern for the former DoD site, and therefore presumably associated with the storage of salt on the facility by the Town of Alburgh. Lead and Zinc were also reported above water quality standards from the sample within the nitrogen fuel tank. No other metals exceedances were reported.
 - No elevated levels of VOCs or TPH were reported in surface water across the site
- Recommendations were that the site should be referred to the appropriate USACE or agency office for potential further course of action.
- In 1988, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC) requested the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) perform a Preliminary Assessment (PA) at the site. This assessment essentially reviewed the USACE report and recommended that site be referred to the appropriate USACE bureau for potential future course of action.
- January 1989, VTDEC listed the site as an active hazardous waste site.
- In 1995, there is documentation in the file that shows a site visit was conducted by a consultant, Stone & Webster, for the USACE under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS). The report eluded to in the correspondence does not appear to be in our files, however no additional sampling was done as part of this work, only additional site visits and file reviews.
- In 1998, EPA Region 1 hired Roy F. Weston, Inc. to perform a Site Inspection Report. This work was conducted based on the information provided in the 1988 PA report. A detailed description of site activities occurring at the time was documented in the report titled Final Site Inspection Report for ATLAS Missile S-2 prepared by Roy F. Weston, Inc., dated April 19, 2000. The Town of Alburgh was using one building on site for truck maintenance and the associated materials were recorded such as hydraulic oil, antifreeze, motor oil and diesel fuel. It was also noted that the entrance to the Launch Control Center was welded shut. A 1,000-gallon above ground storage tank (AST) containing diesel for town trucks and school buses was located on the property. An empty 5,000-gallon, former gasoline underground storage tank (UST) was also noted as being at the site. The UST was not buried but sitting on top of the ground. There is no evidence it was buried on the site and there is no evidence of gasoline contamination in any samples obtained over the years. No additional information about the UST was noted. Findings from this investigation included:
 - Five (5) soils samples and ten (10) sediment samples were obtained and analyzed for VOCs, semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs) congeners, and metals.
 - Low levels of one (1) VOC, two (2) PCB congeners and three (3) metal compounds were detected in sediment samples and one (1) VOC, ten (10) SVOCs, one (1) pesticide and two (2) metal compounds were detected in surficial soil samples – however all were below the SSV for industrial soils.
 - Surface water samples indicated elevated levels of sodium across the site.
 - Due to the relatively low levels of contamination, and the lack of sensitive receptors, the site was determined low risk.
- In 2004, the VTDEC was made aware of resources the EPA Pre-Remedial Program had available and therefore requested additional water quality sampling at the site. There was also a discussion with the Vermont Water Supply Division, regarding their request to have the silo properly closed by filling them in. This site work was not completed.
- In 2010, the Town of Alburgh started looking in to upgrading the site due to the deteriorating condition of the onsite buildings. However due to the site's listing on the active hazardous sites list, funding was not available to them. The DoD, through the USACE sent a response letter to the town of Alburgh stating that the site was not eligible for any additional DERP-FUDS monies. A meeting between the VTDEC, the VT Department of Health, congressional representatives and the town occurred. The town was going to get estimates for a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment. There is no evidence that this was completed.

- In 2011, the town requested a hazard safety review by the Vermont Department of Labor. There were safety and health hazards identified mainly pertaining to the working conditions inside of the two corrugated metal structures.
- In 2012, a Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) was conducted (as part of the 2011 WorkSAFE inspection), by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) which indicated there were no air quality concerns at the site. The Department of Labor issued some restriction to use at the site, such as storing road salt/sand only on paved surfaces, time on site could not exceed 3 hours and was only to be for the retrieval and returning of trucks and equipment, and there was to be no disturbance of soil, ground water or surface water and no construction work of any kind. Most of these recommendations had to do with working conditions and safety concerns, not necessarily to potential exposure to environmental contamination.
- In 2015, the VTDEC was approached by VWSD LLC regarding the installation of solar panels on the site. A detailed file review showed that minimal surface contamination existed across the site, however below all applicable industrial standards. On June 16, 2017, Murray and Masterson Environmental Services, LLC, on behalf of VWSD and the Town of Alburgh, properly abandoned three of the four groundwater monitoring wells across the site. MW-3 was unable to be located and is assumed to have been previously destroyed.
- In 2010, the Town of Alburgh confirmed that the site and nearby resident are on municipal water. The site is also surrounded by a chain link fence and a gate to limit access.

Based on the above, our program has determined that the release of contaminants associated with the former missile site operations and the use of the site by the Alburgh Town Highway Department, do not constitute an unacceptable exposure to human health and the environment under current use and conditions. Therefore, the SMS is assigning the site a Sites Management Activities Completed (SMAC) designation. This SMAC designation does not release the owner and /or operators (past, current, or future) from any contamination discovered after the property receives this designation. It also does not mean that this property is free of contamination or absent of other environmental issues. However, this designation does mean that the SMS is not requesting any additional work related to the identified releases at this time. A Notice to the Town of Alburgh Land Records (NLR) is awaiting filing and indicates the above information and that our program must be notified if future work disturbs soils on the property. Once the SMS receives a copy of the filed NLR, the site will be assigned a SMAC designation in our database.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me; or Tami Wuestenberg, the project manager, at 802-249-5186.

Sincerely,



Matt Moran, Program Manager
Sites Management Section

c: Will Veve, VWSD LLC
Dagan Murray
DEC Regional Office (via e-mail)
Alburgh Health Officer
Heather Sullivan, NED ACOE