



National Park Service Community Involvement Plan

Kennecott Mines and Mill Town Site
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Interior Region 11
Kennecott, Alaska
May 2021



United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
Mile 106.8 Richardson Hwy. P.O. Box 439
Copper Center, AK 99573-0439
907 822 5234 Fax 907 822 3281



1.A.2 (Resource Management)

MAY 03 2021

Dear Members of the Kennecott-McCarthy Community,

As you may be aware, the National Park Service (NPS) is conducting environmental investigations at Kennecott to determine if measures should be taken to protect employees, the public, and the environment from mining- and milling-related contamination. NPS has delegated authority to conduct these activities pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, commonly known as "Superfund"). As part of this process, NPS has prepared a Community Involvement Plan, which outlines opportunities for active public participation and enables the public to provide valuable comments that can be used by NPS for planning and decision making.

Community involvement ensures that the members of the public affected by a site undergoing investigation and cleanup under CERCLA, such as the Kennecott Mines and Mill Town Site, have a say in the process; a right-to-know what NPS is doing to address the contamination; and are able to provide input into the decision-making process. Early and meaningful communication with affected community members is the goal of the community involvement process, which occurs throughout the lifecycle of the NPS Cleanup Framework. The Community Involvement Plan is a living document that will be periodically updated or revised as appropriate as site conditions change.

In this Community Involvement Plan, you will find a description of the project; an overview of previous environmental studies and response actions, including where to obtain copies of the relevant documents; a description of the CERCLA process, including a glossary of CERCLA-related terms; a description of current and future site activities; and an overview and schedule of community involvement activities.

If you have any questions about this Community Involvement Plan or you would like more information, please contact Mark Miller at 907-822-7212 or memiller@nps.gov, or Sarah Venator at 907-644-3573 or sarah_venator@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Ben Bobowski, Ph.D.
Superintendent



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACM	Asbestos-containing materials
AK	Alaska
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ANILCA	Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
CDP	census-designated place
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FS	Feasibility Study
KNHL	Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark
MAC	McCarthy Area Council
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
NPS	National Park Service
RI	Remedial Investigation
USCB	United States Census Bureau
WRST	Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve



1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National Park Service (NPS) is issuing this *Community Involvement Plan* (CIP) as a resource to enable meaningful community involvement throughout its investigation, selection, and implementation of *cleanup* activities at the Kennecott Mines and Mill Town Site (Site).¹ The NPS is conducting these cleanup activities at the Site pursuant to the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act* (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601 *et seq.* and its implementing regulations under the *National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan* (NCP), 40 C.F.R. Part 300. NPS is committed to encouraging public participation and providing opportunities for communication between the NPS and the affected community, interested stakeholders, and community residents during the environmental investigation and cleanup activities at the Site.

CERCLA-related terms are defined in Appendix A, Glossary.

Note that first reference to a CERCLA-related term in this CIP is noted in *italics* to aid the reader in understanding when to refer to Appendix A.

1.1 Purpose and Objectives of the CIP

The CIP has been prepared in accordance with CERCLA and the NCP. The CIP serves as a guide for the NPS to engage and inform community members, environmental groups, government officials, the media, and other interested parties in the environmental investigation and cleanup activities at the Site. The CIP is a “living” document and will be updated or revised, as appropriate, as Site conditions change.

The CIP has two key objectives. The first key objective is to provide for the dissemination of information to the public in a timely, accurate, meaningful, and understandable manner. The second objective is to create opportunities—and ensure the community understands those opportunities—for active public participation, enabling interested persons to provide valuable comments that can be used by the NPS project team for planning and decision making.

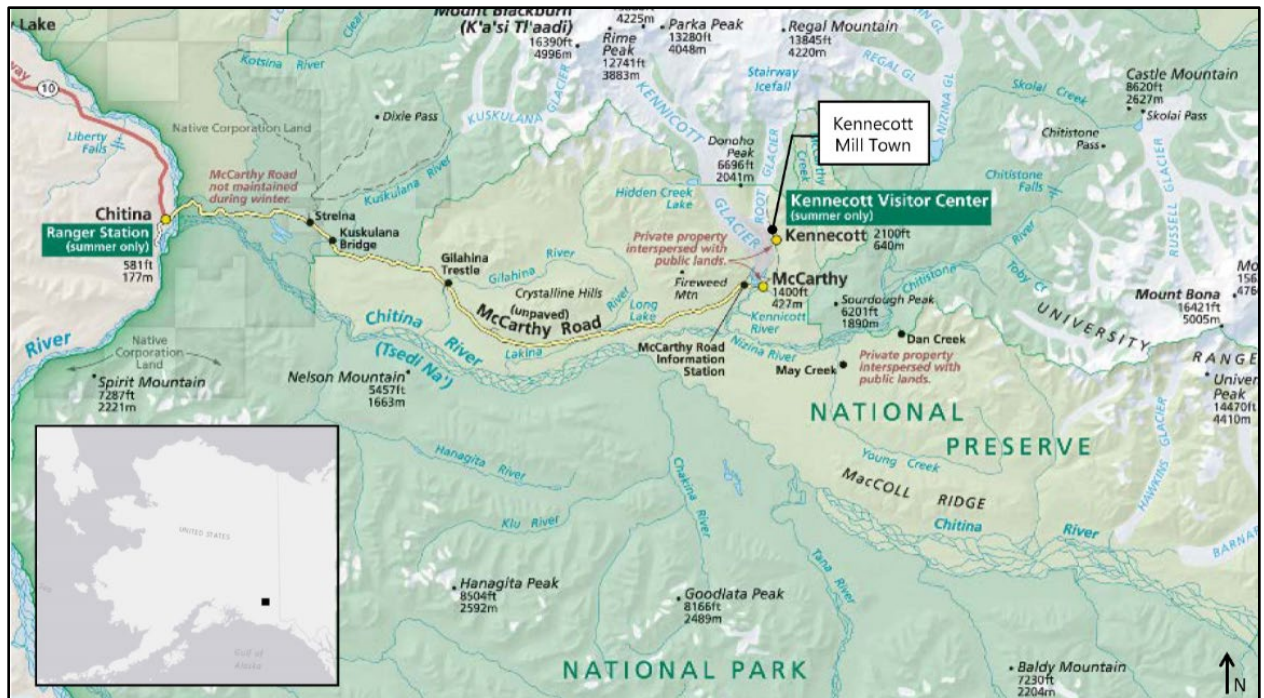
The strategies to accomplish these objectives take into consideration the location of the Site and surrounding communities. The Site is located in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST or the Park) in Alaska (Figure 1). The Site encompasses areas potentially impacted by historic mining and milling activities near McCarthy, Alaska. Site coordinates are 61°29'06.6" N, 142°53'19.4" W. It is located on the northeast corner of the McCarthy B-6 NE, Alaska United States Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle. The Site is located on a valley

¹ Because Comprehensive Environmental, Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) site-wide Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) planning is in the early stages, NPS is currently evaluating the definition/boundary of the CERCLA “Site” that will undergo comprehensive investigation. For purposes of this CIP, the Site includes the former Kennecott mines (e.g., Bonanza, Jumbo, Glacier, and Erie Mines) and the Mill Town area.



wall near the confluence of the Root and Kennicott Glaciers, south of the Wrangell Mountains, and west of Bonanza Ridge.

Figure 1. Site Map



1.2 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)

The NPS is investigating and cleaning up the Site pursuant to CERCLA and the NCP. Congress enacted CERCLA, also known as Superfund, in 1980 to address releases and threatened releases of *hazardous substances* into the environment. CERCLA gives the President broad powers to respond to hazardous substance releases and threatened releases as the President deems necessary to protect the public health or welfare or the environment, including enforcement authority with respect to parties responsible for the releases. The President has delegated this authority to a number of federal departments and agencies, including the Department of the Interior. The NPS, an agency within the Department of the Interior, is the CERCLA *lead agency* for the Site.

To implement CERCLA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created the NCP, which is a set of regulations that detail how CERCLA cleanups are to be conducted, including requirements for community involvement activities. Different requirements apply to different types of *response actions* (i.e., a *remedial action* or a *removal action*). The NPS has determined that a remedial action is appropriate for the Site due to the complexity of the Site and the potential for multiple *operable units*.



As part of the remedial action, NPS is conducting a *remedial investigation (RI)* to comprehensively characterize the Site to determine the nature and extent of contamination, identify pathways of contaminant migration, and assess associated potential risks to human health and the environment. Information gathered during the RI is used to determine the necessity of remedial action and to support the evaluation of remedial action alternatives in the *feasibility* study (FS). As the lead agency for the Site, NPS must involve the community during the RI/FS process in the manner detailed in the NCP, and this CIP is part of that community involvement process.

1.3 Overview of the CIP

The CIP specifies the community involvement activities that the NPS expects to undertake as investigation and cleanup of the Site proceeds. This CIP is organized as follows:

- Section 1.0: Introduction – A description of the purpose of the CIP.
- Section 2.0: Site Background – An overview of Site description and history, previous Site investigations, and current and future Site activities.
- Section 3.0: Community Background – A community profile, history of community involvement at the Site, and summary of community concerns and questions.
- Section 4.0: Community Involvement Activities – A description of planned methods and activities for communicating with the public concerning Site activities, and a general schedule of anticipated community involvement activities.
- Section 5.0: References – A list of references used in developing this CIP.

The appendices include a glossary (Appendix A), *administrative record file and information repository* details (Appendix B), community fact sheets and community updates (Appendix C), contact information (Appendix D), tables of minimum community involvement requirements (Appendix E), and Site maps (Appendix F).



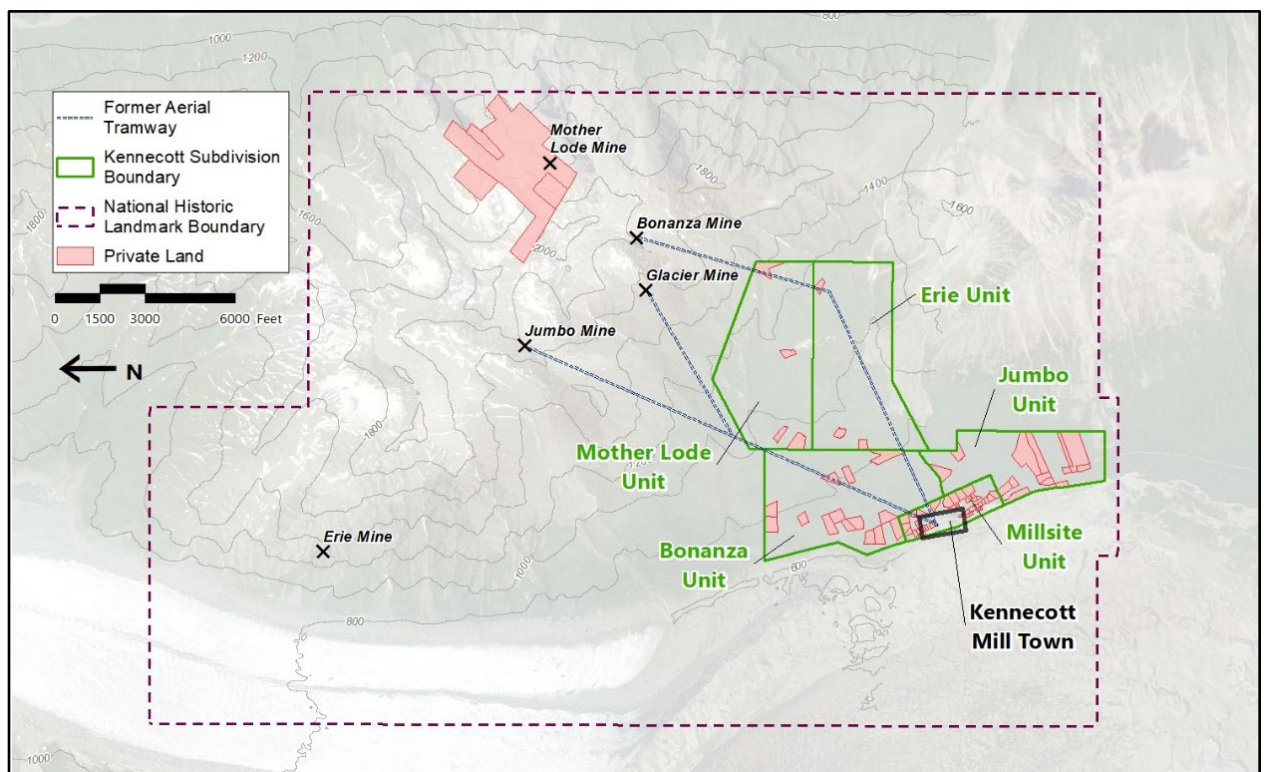
2.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This section provides a physical and operational description of the Site as well as information regarding locations where waste storage, handling, disposal, and deposition may have occurred.

2.1 Site Description and History

The Site is a historic mining and milling area located in the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark (KNHL) near McCarthy, Alaska. Within the boundary of the KNHL, much of the Site is located within the Kennecott Subdivision, which is composed of five subdivision units with interspersed public (NPS-managed) and privately owned lands crossed by road easements that provide access by lot owners and guests (Figure 2). Management of the Kennecott Subdivision is not under the authority of the NPS. Within the Kennecott Subdivision, the NPS has primary authority only on properties owned by the United States and is legally bound to the restrictions noted on the plat and deed covenants.

Figure 2: Kennecott Subdivision





The Mill Town within the Mill Site Unit of the subdivision is a popular tourist destination and the most visited area within the 13.2-million-acre WRST. The Mill Site Unit is approximately 83.4 acres in size, with 49.5 acres of public land managed by NPS, 33.9 acres of privately owned lands, and a network of road easements. The Mill Town and KNHL are accessible by car via the McCarthy Road, a 59-mile long dirt and gravel road that is open to the public up to the Kennicott River footbridge, approximately 0.5 mile from the town of McCarthy and 5 miles from the KNHL. Vehicle access to the Site is therefore restricted, with the KNHL and Mill Town accessible to the public via the public footbridge or local shuttle services. Travel by air to the McCarthy Airport is also an option. The layout of the Mill Town buildings, other site features, and specification of public and private lands are shown in Figure F-1 (Appendix F). Within the Mill Town, visitors have guided and unguided access along easements to NPS-managed public buildings that are interspersed with privately owned buildings. Visitors and residents are warned via signage located at several locations within the Mill Town to avoid contact with area soils due to the presence of contaminants such as lead, arsenic, and asbestos. Access is restricted by both signage and fencing on the north side of the Mill Building and, in an area west of the of the Leach Plant due to the presence of unexploded blasting caps and the associated explosive danger.

Privately owned buildings (those buildings not outlined on Figure F-1) are generally used as summer or seasonal residences or businesses. The number of residents varies both seasonally and from year to year. In the summer of 2019, approximately 65 people worked and 20 people lived within 0.25 mile of the Site during the summer months. This is expected to be typical for future summers, as well. The number of winter residents varies from 5 to 8 in the “town” of Kennecott. A privately-owned lodge located on the southern portion of the Mill Town along the road to McCarthy employs approximately 15 people during the summer months, and these employees live within the Kennecott Subdivision during the summer months.

Site accessibility and land use were described in the Kennecott Pre-Acquisition Environmental Site Assessment:

“... today circulation patterns in the Mill Site generally mimic the historic routes, with the older roads and trails still in use. Several new roads have been established in the southern part of the townsite while others in the National Creek drainage have been abandoned or destroyed by flood or bank failure. All roads have gravel surfaces; much of the surface material is mill tails.”

The road through the Mill Town leads to one of the most popular trails in the Park, the Root Glacier Trail, and provides access to several less used trails that lead to the historic Erie, Jumbo, and Bonanza mines.

Operational History

An area of the Site was developed and used by the Kennecott Copper Corporation between 1906 and 1938 as a copper mine and copper milling town. The Mill Building received and concentrated ore mined from the nearby Bonanza, Jumbo, Glacier, and Erie Mines.



Operations also included use of a gravity concentrator and an ammonia leaching and flotation process. A power plant, machine shops, repair shops, housing, administrative offices, and material stores were located around the mill to support copper ore processing operations. A tramway transported material from the mines to the mill, and a railroad was constructed to transport the concentrated ore from the mill to Cordova, Alaska. From Cordova, the ore was transported via steamship line to the American Smelting and Refining Company, a smelter located in Tacoma, Washington. The mines and mill closed in 1938, and the facilities were abandoned. Between 1911 and 1938, the mine produced 4,626,000 tons of ore.

The current and past use of the adjacent properties is best described in the Kennecott Pre-Acquisition Environmental Site Assessment:

“Historically, the adjacent properties were also associated with Kennecott Copper Corporation's mining operations. The 19 patented mining claims associated with the Mother Lode Coalition Mines are located in the McCarthy Creek drainage directly across the divide from the Bonanza Mine. The Mother Lode operation was established independently of Kennecott [Copper Corporation], but 51 percent of the company was acquired by Kennecott in 1919 and eventually integrated into the larger operations. The 19 patented claims are owned independently of the Kennecott properties subsequently deeded to the Consolidated Wrangell Mining Company and the Great Kennicott Land Company. Land use on the Mother Lode properties has been exclusively related to mining; there were upper and lower camps connected by an aerial tramway and a road connecting to the railway at McCarthy. The ore from the Mother Lode that was shipped before the acquisition of the company by Kennecott was all high-grade and did not require concentrating; hence there was no concentrator built on the property. Eventually, an underground connection was established with the Bonanza and Jumbo Mines, and supporting operations on the Mother Lode side were abandoned. More recently, principally in the late 1960s and 1970s, mineral explorations were conducted in the area using the Mother Lode mill site claims on McCarthy Creek as a base of operations. Since then, recreational uses of the area have predominated.”

The Mill Town primarily consists of historic buildings that were used to support copper ore processing operations. These historic structures contained lead- and arsenic-based paint and asbestos for insulation. The area surrounding the mill was filled using tailings from the milling operations. A local power plant, which used a fuel believed to be a heavy oil similar to Bunker C, was used to power boilers that produced steam for heating the buildings and producing electrical power. Although it is unknown how the fuel was transported to the site, rail was the likely means of transport. Aboveground storage tanks were used to store fuel, and utilidors were used to transport fuel to the power plant. The 1992 Preliminary Assessment identified asbestos, mill tailings, boiler ash, ammonia tanks, oils and grease/oil spills, lead-based paint, ore, and garbage dumps as wastes present at the Site.

The Site is currently accessible for visitors to view the historic mining town and serves as a center for exploring the surrounding Park. Visitors can view the Mill Town on guided and self-guided trips. The expected future use of the Site is historic interpretation and outdoor recreation,



in addition to the subsistence uses provided for under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980, 16 U.S.C. § 410hh(9).

2.2 Previous Environmental Studies and Response Actions

Several investigations and limited cleanup activities have been conducted at the Site. Some of the hazards identified were partially mitigated prior to acquisition of the Kennecott properties by the NPS in 1998. After acquiring the Site, the NPS began mitigating the hazards identified in the Kennecott *Pre-Acquisition Environmental Site Assessment* by developing a series of work plans to address hazards as identified in the 1996 report as well as in other documents, including:

- Phase I Environmental Assessment (NPS, 1996)
- Preliminary Assessment Report (Amec Foster Wheeler, 2018)

Previous actions at the Site have been limited and consist of the following activities conducted by EMCON Alaska, Inc. (EMCON) on behalf of the Kennecott Copper Corporation (EMCON, 1995):

- In 1992, packaging and removal of small quantities of potentially hazardous substances located in buildings and dumps; such as laboratory chemicals and glassware, hospital drugs, electrical batteries, and small volumes of ore processing chemicals. Also, lubricating oils and grease and transformer oils were consolidated into drums or overpacks for later shipment.
- In 1993, friable asbestos-containing materials (ACM) were removed from the utilidor system and from Mill Town buildings, with the exceptions of the Power Plant and Leaching Plant.
- In 1994, remaining ACM were removed from the Power Plant and Leaching Plant. Following development of appropriate workplans and regulatory approval, EMCON supervised the following activities: an ash pile was capped by concrete; the solution in two ammonia tanks was treated to remove dissolved metals, and the tanks drained of ammonia solution; two aboveground tanks used for oil storage were drained and cleaned; a spill area of old weathered heavy fuel oil was stabilized; and drums of oil and grease (stored on site from initial cleanup efforts in 1992) were removed.

Most recently, in September 2019 and as part of planning and development of the Site-wide RI/FS, NPS conducted an exposure assessment and associated sampling for screening purposes to evaluate current concerns regarding potential airborne contamination and fugitive dust exposures to both Park employees and Park visitors and to assess future data needs. The assessment indicated that employee occupational exposures to target airborne contaminants were below the applicable occupational exposure limits for the work tasks evaluated. Although there are no exposure limits established for the contaminants evaluated for the general public, simulated visitor exposure during a guided tour of the Mill Building to target airborne contaminants were also well below occupational exposure limits and thus not expected to present an airborne hazard to either child or adult visitors.



2.3 Current and Future Site Activities

NPS, pursuant to its authority under CERCLA, is currently in the planning stages of a Site-wide RI/FS. The RI/FS is a comprehensive environmental investigation that will include sampling of various environmental media (e.g., air, soil, surface water and sediment, groundwater, etc.) and potential source areas to fully characterize contamination; an assessment of potential human health and ecological risks associated with exposure to hazardous substances that may be present; and evaluation of cleanup alternatives to address identified risks. Subsequent to the RI/FS, NPS will develop a *proposed plan* that will summarize the cleanup alternatives analyzed in the FS and describe NPS's preferred alternative for the Site. This document will be made available for public review and comment. The proposed plan will be the basis for a *Record of Decision (ROD)* that will specify the remedial measures to be taken to address Site contamination. Following the ROD, *remedial design* plans will be developed and implemented. NPS is currently preparing planning documents (e.g., a Sampling and Analysis Plan) that will guide on-Site RI data collection efforts planned for 2021.



3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

3.1 Community Profile

The Mill Town is the most complex and extensive component of the Site, and contains former operational structures such as a concentrator, leach plant, power house, and numerous housing and support structures. This area is the focus of most activity on the ground, as it is the most easily accessible and contains the structures most commonly associated with the Site. The mine camps located on Bonanza Ridge consist of standing or ruined bunkhouses, tramway terminals, shops, and heating and power plants.

Traffic patterns within the Site generally mimic the historic routes, with the older roads and trails still in use. All roads have gravel surfaces; much of the surface material is comprised of mill tails.

A number of historic buildings have been renovated for private residential use. Some lots have also been developed with private residences that are occupied. In addition, the Kennicott Glacier Lodge, constructed in 1981, attracts domestic and international visitors.

Kennecott functions as a center for exploring the surrounding Park, served by local lodges and private bed and breakfast establishments, and other commercial entities (e.g., tour and wilderness guide services). Visitors walk throughout the Mill Town and the mines on both self-guided and commercially guided trips. Visitor use of the Site is generally unrestricted, but important exceptions include the area immediately north of the Mill Building (fenced off, signed, and always unavailable) and the interior of some buildings (most notably the mill and powerhouse) which are available only on paid, guided tours.

The United States Census Bureau (USCB) places Kennecott in the Valdez-Cordova Census Area as part of the McCarthy census-designated place (CDP), an area that covers approximately 150 square miles. As of the 2010 census, there were 28 people in 20 households residing in the McCarthy CDP (Alaska Department of Labor, 2020). However, in 2012 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Division of Subsistence, in collaboration with the Park, conducted a study to update information about subsistence harvests and uses in the McCarthy area. This study concluded that the 2010 federal census population estimates for the McCarthy CDP excluded a substantial number of households and individuals residing in the McCarthy area (La Vine, et al., 2014). Per the study, community residents excluded included those who reside farther away from area roads and were harder to reach, as well as year-round permanent residents who work seasonally and may have been missed in the 2010 federal USCB survey. As a result, for purposes of the ADF&G study, the population survey area was expanded beyond the federal McCarthy CDP to include McCarthy Road extending west to milepost 42 and some remote homesteads off the road (La Vine, et al., 2014). To provide a more comprehensive view of the community for this CIP, the demographics and other information reported in the ADF&G report are summarized below. For purposes of this CIP, the area included in the ADF&G survey area is referred to as the “expanded CDP”.



The ADF&G study found that in 2012, an estimated 103 people in 58 households occupied the expanded CDP year-round, with a mean household size of 1.8 people. Of the total population, only one Alaskan Native resided in the area. According to the survey results, 66.6% of the study area's population was male (68 individuals) and 33.3% female (34 individuals). The mean age for the population was 43 years old. The 2012 population profile by age and sex for the expanded CDP is summarized as follows (La Vine, et al., 2014):

Age	Total	Male	Female
Total	103	68	34
Under 20 years	18	12	6
20 – 24 years	0	0	0
25-44 years	31	18	13
45-64 years	40	27	13
Over 65 years	12	10	2
Unknown	1	1	0

In addition to population demographics, the ADF&G study found that the estimated total mean annual income for an expanded CDP household in 2012 was \$39,617 (La Vine, et al., 2014). Total mean annual income consisted of an estimated mean earned income of \$39,015 and mean income from other sources (e.g., pension or retirement, Social Security, or Alaska Permanent Fund dividend) of \$602. Most of the earned income in the expanded CDP came from service, technological, and construction occupations with the federal government (24%). Earned income also came from occupations in the construction industry (22%) and the services sector (21%). The estimated per capita earned income was \$22,052. The isolated location of McCarthy/Kennecott limits local employment opportunities, resulting in many year-round residents searching for seasonal employment outside the community. However, with the creation of the Park in 1980 and the associated increased number of visitors to the McCarthy and Kennecott communities, more seasonal summertime employment opportunities have developed in the local tourism sector (La Vine, et al., 2014).

Nearly all residents surveyed in the expanded CDP attempted to harvest (99%) or participated in harvesting (96%) some wild resources in 2012 as follows (La Vine, et al., 2014):

Subsistence Resource	Percent of Population that Harvested the Resource	Percent of Population that Processed the Resource
Fish	56.5	56.5



Large Land Mammals (hunt)	30.4	39.1
Small Land Mammals or Furbearers (hunt or trap)	26.1	23.8
Birds and Eggs (hunt)	29.0	33.3
Berries, Plants, or Wood (gather)	98.6	95.7

No formal local government structure (e.g., City Council) exists in Kennecott or the surrounding communities. However, the McCarthy Area Council (MAC) works on behalf of the McCarthy/Kennecott community. The MAC is a volunteer, non-profit organization that administers State of Alaska revenue sharing funds, engages with many agencies and organizations (including NPS) on behalf of the community, and maintains public facilities. MAC meetings are typically held on the last Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm from March through August at the Blackburn Heritage Foundation Community Center (aka Tony Zak's) near McCarthy.

3.2 Community Involvement History

Ongoing community involvement has included Park staff participation in MAC meetings, listening sessions to receive community concerns related to Park management of resources in the area (particularly the KNHL), and an annual Superintendent's Letter. Community Updates (or Fact Sheets) were prepared by NPS in 2019 and 2020. The 2019 Community Update was related to water quality findings in National Creek, while the 2020 Update provided a summary of the air exposure assessment conducted by NPS at the Site in 2019. This CIP outlines the community involvement strategies NPS will take in the future as work progresses on the Site.

Community Updates are available in Appendix C, Community Fact Sheets and Community Updates.

NPS has established three information repositories, and placed a copy of the administrative record file in each. An information repository is a location open to members of the general public where they may review and make copies of documents (including the administrative record file) relevant to the Site. The administrative record is a file that contains all information used by the lead agency to make its decision on the selection of a response action. For the convenience of the interested local community and the general public, one of the Site information repositories is located at the Kennecott Visitor Center (open seasonally) and one in the more centrally-located WRST Park Headquarters in Copper Center (open year-round). The third information repository is located at the Alaska Regional Office in Anchorage, Alaska (also open year-round). The addresses, contact information, and operating hours for the information repositories are provided in Appendix B.



3.3 Community Concerns and Needs

Identifying community concerns and issues is a vital step in the CIP's development, and it is important that the public be asked for recommendations on how NPS can most effectively involve and communicate with the community. To identify community concerns and needs and to identify how and when citizens would like to be involved in the cleanup process, NPS typically conducts community interviews with local officials, community residents, and various environmental and special interest groups who represent a range of opinions and backgrounds during development of the CIP. Because previous and ongoing community involvement has identified current community concerns and preferences, NPS has not conducted additional interviews. However, as the CERCLA process progresses, interviews may be conducted if it appears that new concerns and/or different preferences for communication arise.

As noted, ongoing community involvement has included Park staff participation in MAC meetings, listening sessions to receive community concerns related to park management of resources in the area (particularly the KNHL), an annual Superintendent's Letter, and Community Updates. Based upon input the Park has received during community involvement activities, there appears to be a good level of community member awareness of the contamination associated with the Site. Concerns regarding Site contamination expressed by the public during public meetings and listening sessions ranges from no or only minimal concern to various concerns regarding potential Site risks, potential impact to wild resources (e.g., berries), and potential impact to the local economy and tourism.

As the RI and other CERCLA activities progress at the Site, these and other community concerns will be addressed via the communication methods and activities described below in Section 4. The community's current preferences for receiving Site-related information include:

- Public Radio (KCHU);
- Posting of physical flyers at the McCarthy Mail Shack;
- Email to the MAC email distribution list;
- Copper River Record; and
- Posting to the Park Facebook page and Twitter.

The community's current preference for meetings is via the MAC meetings that are held each month from March through August. If additional meetings related to CERCLA activities are required in the March-August time frame or at another time of year, they will be scheduled in cooperation with the Park and local community so as not to conflict with local events and/or activities.



4.0 PLANNED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

As noted earlier, the key objectives of the community involvement program are to establish and encourage communication between NPS and the community and provide opportunities for the public to provide input throughout the course of CERCLA response activities at the Site. The following methods and techniques, which are selected based in part on established park/community communication practices, will be used to promote public participation and establish steps to provide timely information to interested citizens, agency staff, government officials, the media, and the community at large. The first part of this section describes each community involvement activity and the second part provides a schedule for when those activities will occur.

***Important:** Upon request, NPS will endeavor to meet identified needs for translation, access to electronic communications, disability access, or other accommodations for people with special needs.*

4.1 Communication Methods and Community Involvement Activities

- **Site Spokesperson**

The points-of-contact for the Site include Sarah Venator (Federal Government Lead/project manager), Mark Miller (Park Lead), and Carrie Wittmer (Park Public Information Officer). These individuals will inform the community of actions taken, respond to inquiries, provide information concerning the Site, and act as liaison between the NPS and community members, environmental groups, government officials, the media, and other interested parties. See Appendix D for contact information.

- **Park and Region Contacts**

Designated NPS contacts at the Park and region levels will be responsible for presenting project-related information during public meetings and responding to technical inquiries, and often will be present at the Site to liaison with community members when site investigations and cleanup activities are underway.

- **Administrative Record File and Information Repository**

The administrative record file is housed in both information repositories and contains Site environmental investigations and reports and other information that NPS considers or relies upon in the response action selection process. NPS will update the administrative record file at key points during the response action process, such as when important investigations and reports are completed. See Appendix B for administrative record file and information repository details.

- **Interested Parties Mailing List**

NPS maintains an interested-parties mailing list that includes federal, state, and local elected officials; local school district officials; selected agency staff; community groups; media contacts; and interested community members. NPS notifies the parties on the list whenever key documents are published or the status of the Site changes. In accordance



with NPS's sustainability efforts, whenever possible mailings will be sent electronically by email, with hyperlinks to documents posted on the website. However, interested parties can request conventional mail delivery if access to electronic communication is not available. In such cases, the NPS will send a letter informing interested parties of the availability of documents at the information repositories.

Efforts are ongoing to expand the mailing list. Individuals can be added to the mailing list by contacting the Site spokesperson (See Appendix D for contact information) or signing up on the Site webpage. NPS will also offer sign-up opportunities at public meetings. The NPS will update the mailing list as appropriate to reflect changes in government representatives and other contacts. Note that contact information for private individuals on the list will be kept confidential to protect the personal information of those individuals.

- **Public Comment Periods**

While NPS accepts comments on ongoing response activities from the public at any time, at certain times a formal *public comment period* will be provided. A public comment period is a formal time period during which the NPS accepts comments from the public on specific proposed actions or decisions. Generally, public comment periods last for 30 days, although they may be longer. Upon timely request (preferably to the Site spokesperson and in writing) during any public comment period, the NPS will extend the public comment period by a minimum of 15 days. In addition, upon request, the NPS will meet identified needs for translation, access to electronic communications, or other accommodations for persons with special needs. (See Public Notices, below).

The NPS will formally notify the community of public comment periods through several means:

- The NPS will publish notice of public comment periods in the Copper River Record, The Cordova Times, and Mukluk News.
- The NPS will announce the notice of public comment periods on public radio station KCHU.
- The NPS will provide notice of public comment periods on physical flyers at the McCarthy Mail Shack., as well as the Glennallen, Chitina, and Copper Center post offices.
- The NPS will place notice of public comment periods on the Site website and Park Facebook page and Twitter.
- The NPS will notify individuals listed on the Interested Parties Mailing List.

Per CERCLA requirements, the first formal public comment period is anticipated upon completion of the proposed plan, which will be developed subsequent to the completion of the RI/FS for the Site.

Following the close of a formal public comment period, the NPS will prepare written responses to significant public comments received during the public comment period



(called a “*responsiveness summary*”); the responsiveness summary will be added to the administrative record file.

- **Public Notices**

The NPS will issue public notices to inform the community and the general public of public events, publication of key documents, and major Site milestones.

Based on identified community preferences and the subject of the announcement, NPS will select from the following methods to distribute public notices about the Site:

- The Copper River Record, The Cordova Times, and Mukluk News. To reach as many people as possible, the NPS publishes public notices in main sections of newspapers, not in legal notices sections.
- Public Radio KCHU.
- Physical flyers at the McCarthy Mail Shack.
- Park Facebook page and Twitter.
- Site website.
- Notice sent to the Interested Parties Mailing List.
- Park postings as described in Park Visitor Communication.

The next upcoming public notice will announce a *notice of availability* of the administrative record file and the opportunity for the public to review and comment upon documents comprising the file. Additional public notices are anticipated prior to implementation of CERCLA field activities. This notice will provide a summary of anticipated investigation activities, the schedule, and NPS contact information.

- **Public Meetings**

Public meetings are scheduled to communicate directly with the public about key Site milestones. Public meetings are usually fairly structured forums that are open to the general public, including both affected and unaffected parties. Public meetings typically include an NPS staff presentation followed by a question, answer, and comment session. Based on identified community preferences, public meetings will be held at the Kennecott Recreation Hall in Kennecott and/or the Tony Zak’s Community Center in McCarthy. Because of the seasonal nature of the local community, public meetings will be scheduled, when possible, during non-winter months (e.g., March-August). Also, based on identified community preferences, public meetings will generally be held on weekdays in the early evenings, and will be announced as described in the Public Notices section above. All meetings will be scheduled in cooperation with the Park and local community so as not to conflict with other local events and/or activities.

Public meetings held during the formal public comment period will be recorded and transcribed, and the transcript will be made available in the administrative record file. As noted above in the Public Comment Period section, NPS responses to significant oral or written comments made during a public meeting (“responsiveness summary”) will be compiled and placed in the administrative record file.



In addition to the structured public meetings, as appropriate, NPS may hold public briefings prior to field work to inform the public of the nature, scheduling, and likely impacts of the upcoming activities, as well as to receive any suggestions on alleviating such impacts.

To date, no requests have been made to provide a translator; however, NPS will take steps to accommodate such requests as well as those for individuals with special needs, as appropriate.

- **Newspaper Contacts/News Releases**

Due to the remote location of the McCarthy/Kennecott communities, there is no newspaper publication that is routinely distributed and/or used by these local communities. Alternative resources such as those identified above (e.g., public radio, social media) under Public Notices are more accessible and preferred options for receiving notices and will therefore be used for public notices. However, newspaper publications including the Copper River Record, The Cordova Times, and/or Mukluk News, as well as the Copper River Country Journal (online publication) will be used for newspaper releases when necessary to inform the broader public. Generally, all media outlets regularly contacted by Park staff will be included when news releases are issued. News releases will also be posted electronically on the Site's web page with links posted to the Park's Facebook page and Twitter, and physically at the McCarthy Mail Shack.

News releases will be issued at key milestones to ensure the distribution of accurate and timely information.

- **Community Organization Presentations**

If requested, the NPS will meet with interested community organizations or provide information for community organizations to include in their newsletters. Interested community organizations can discuss community organization presentations by calling or emailing the Site spokesperson at the contact information provided in Appendix D, Contact Information.

Prior community organization presentations are described in Section 3.2, Community Involvement.

- **Park Visitor Communication**

Based on current park/community communication strategies, the NPS has determined that the most effective ways to provide Site information to Park visitors will be to use the following methods:

- Posted notices located on the bulletin board near the Kennecott Visitor Center/shuttle bus drop off.
- Brief article in The K'elt'aeni, the newspaper that is distributed to visitors as they enter the Park.
- Site website and Park Facebook page and Twitter.
- Informed Park staff (with sufficient information to address visitor questions).



- Community Updates.

Posted items will briefly explain the purpose of the project, what visitors may see or hear in the area, safety concerns, and sources for additional information. The NPS will also post the following information:

- The Site website address;
- Site spokesperson and contact information;
- Public notices;
- Notices of public meetings; and
- Site access restrictions.

- **Community Updates**

Community Updates are brief documents to inform the community about the Site and the environmental investigation and cleanup process. Community Updates present information about Site history; the nature and extent of Site contamination; public health and safety issues; investigation and/or cleanup plans, processes, and schedules; and local impacts during cleanup activities. Community Updates also provide contact information for public inquiries.

The NPS will prepare Community Updates at key milestones in the cleanup process. For example, NPS prepared Community Updates to inform the public about preliminary water testing performed in National Creek and the 2019 air exposure assessment; these are available for review in Appendix C, Community Fact Sheets and Community Updates. The next anticipated Community Update will be released to announce implementation of CERCLA field activities. This notice will provide a summary of anticipated investigation activities, the schedule, and NPS contact information.

NPS will distribute Community Updates to the public using the following means:

- Posting Community Updates on the Site website and Park Facebook page and Twitter
- Sending a notice to persons on the Interested Parties Mailing List with either a hyperlink to (for email notices) or a copy (for regular mail notices) of the Community Update.
- Posting the Community Updates at the McCarthy Mail Shack.
- Providing Community updates at Public Meetings, as appropriate.
- Posting Community Updates at or near the Site as described in the Park Visitor Communication section above.
- Making Community Updates available at various Park locations.

- **Site Website**

NPS is in the process of establishing a Site website on which it will post general Site information as well as key cleanup and community involvement documents.

- **Contact Information**



NPS contact information will be included in Community Updates, public notices, news releases, and on the Site website. Contact information for NPS representatives as well as for other key individuals is provided in Appendix D, Contact Information.

- **Community Involvement Plan Revision**

To remain flexible and able to respond to the evolving needs of the community and changes to the Site, the CIP will be reviewed and revised as needed, and posted on the website. As the response action progresses, NPS staff may identify and use additional means or activities to inform and engage the community.

4.2 Community Involvement Activity Schedule

- The NPS selected the above methods and activities to engage and inform the community regarding the Site and Site activities. This section provides a schedule for when those activities will occur.
- **Ongoing Activities**
 - Respond to citizen inquiries and requests
 - Maintain the administrative record file and information repositories
 - Maintain the Interested Parties Mailing List
 - Maintain Park visitor communications
 - Develop and maintain the Site website
- **Remedial Investigation**
 - Prepare and issue a formal CIP
 - Community Update to announce implementation of CERCLA field activities
 - Posting on the Site website and Park Facebook page and Twitter
 - Send a notice to persons on the Interested Parties Mailing List
 - Post at or near the Site
 - Public briefing as appropriate
 - Provide information for group newsletters, if requested



5.0 REFERENCES

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National Park Service (NPS). *Community Involvement Requirements and Best Practices*. 2014. Available at <https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/ext-nps-csportal>.

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USEPA. *Community Involvement Toolkit*. Available at <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/toolkit.htm>.



APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY

Definitions for CERCLA-related words found throughout the CIP are provided below.

Administrative Record File: A file that contains all information considered or relied upon by the lead agency to make its decision on the selection of a response action under CERCLA. See Appendix B, Administrative Record File and Information Repository Details, for further information on the Site administrative record file.

CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act): A federal law, commonly known as “Superfund,” which Congress enacted in 1980 and amended in 1986 and 2002. The law provides broad federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or welfare or the environment; establishes the categories of persons who are liable for such releases; and outlines a framework for investigating and responding to releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances where the lead agency determines it is necessary. CERCLA generally authorizes three types of cleanup actions: emergency response actions, removal actions, and remedial actions.

Cleanup: Used in this document to describe actions taken to address a release or threat of a release of hazardous substances, pursuant to CERCLA, that could affect public health or welfare or the environment. The word “cleanup” is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms remedial action, removal action, response action, remedy, remediation, or corrective action.

Community Interview: Interviews conducted by the lead agency as part of the process of preparing a Community Involvement Plan. For most response actions, the NCP requires the lead agency to conduct community interviews to determine appropriate activities to ensure public involvement in Site-related decisions.

Community Involvement Plan (CIP): A plan that explains how NPS intends to enable meaningful community involvement throughout the cleanup process by specifying planned community involvement activities to address community needs, concerns, and expectations identified through community interviews and other means.

Consent Decree: A legally-binding, court-approved negotiated settlement in which a person or company agrees to take specific actions, to end or avoid litigation.

Feasibility Study (FS): A CERCLA term for the development and detailed analysis of cleanup alternatives for a contaminated site that will be addressed by a remedial action. The feasibility study follows the remedial investigation.

Hazardous Substance: Any one of the more than 800 substances defined under CERCLA and the NCP as potentially posing a threat to human health or the environment. Hazardous substances include materials defined as ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as well as additional substances listed under the Clean Water Act and hazardous air pollutants listed under the Clean Air Act.



Information Repository: A location open to members of the general public where a collection of documents (including the administrative record file) relevant to a particular CERCLA Site is made available for public review and copying. See Appendix B, Administrative Record File and Information Repository Details, for the locations and addresses of the Kennecott Mines and Mill Town Site information repositories.

Lead Agency: The government agency with the primary authority to investigate, plan and implement a response action under CERCLA and the NCP at a particular site.

National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP): More commonly called the National Contingency Plan or NCP, it is the federal government's regulatory blueprint for responding to both oil spills and releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances. The NCP is the result of our country's efforts to develop a national response capability and promote overall coordination among the hierarchy of responders and contingency plans. The regulations, published at 40 C.F.R. Part 300, detail how CERCLA is to be implemented.

Notice of Availability: A formal notice announcing the issuance and public availability of a document (e.g., proposed plan) or documents (e.g., the administrative record file or updates thereto). A Notice of Availability is also issued when the information repositories are established. The notice may also announce commencement of a public comment period.

Operable Unit: A defined part of a site response that is managed separately from other parts of the response action. An operable unit is most commonly defined by geographic location, but it can also be defined by environmental media (e.g., water or air), a specific site problem, the phase of an action, or a set of actions performed at the same time on different parts of a site. At this Site, operable units have not yet been defined. Site-specific operable units could include areas such as the Mill Town area, the mine sites (e.g., Bonanza, Jumbo, Glacier, and Erie Mines), or transportation routes.

Proposed Plan: A document summarizing the cleanup alternatives analyzed in the feasibility study that also describes the lead agency's preferred alternative. This document is made available for public review and comment.

Public Comment Period: A period during which the public can formally review and comment on various documents and proposed response actions.

Record of Decision (ROD): The official decision document determining the remediation goals and remedial action selected for cleanup. The Record of Decision is the culmination of the remedial investigation, feasibility study, and proposed plan processes. The document includes a comprehensive background about the site and prior response activities, as well as the responsiveness summary, which provides the lead agency's responses to the significant comments received during the public comment period on the proposed plan.



Remedial Action: A term used to refer to longer-term cleanup actions to address the release or threatened release of hazardous substances typically at larger, more complex CERCLA sites. Under CERCLA, the term refers to the entire process of the remedial investigation, feasibility study, proposed plan, Record of Decision, cleanup, monitoring, and even enforcement; but sometimes it is used to describe just the cleanup phase of the longer-term cleanup action.

Remedial Design: Remedial design follows issuance of the Record of Decision and consists of the engineered, technical, and detailed design for the cleanup action phase of a remedial action.

Remedial Investigation: The comprehensive study of a contaminated site conducted as part of a remedial action. This investigation includes the collection of data and other information necessary to fully characterize the nature and extent of contamination at the site, and to assess the extent to which the site contamination presents potential risks to human health or welfare or the environment. When the investigation is completed, it is documented in a remedial investigation report. The remedial investigation informs the feasibility study.

Removal Action: A type of CERCLA response action with a streamlined planning process. A removal action is conducted to address all or a part of a release or threatened release of hazardous substances when the release requires an expedited, time-critical response, or when the release is of limited size and complexity such that streamlined response planning is appropriate. There are two types of removal actions – time-critical and non-time-critical; sometimes emergency response actions (undertaken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) are referred to as removal actions. The term refers both to the entire removal response action, as well as just the cleanup phase of such an action.

Response Action: The most general CERCLA term used to describe any action taken to respond to a release or threatened release of hazardous substances to protect the public health or welfare or the environment. The term includes all phases of the response, from investigation through monitoring and even enforcement activities. There are generally three types of CERCLA response actions that may be undertaken by NPS as the lead agency: time-critical removal actions, non-time-critical removal actions, and remedial actions. The response action at the Kennecott Mines and Mill Town Site is a remedial action.

Responsiveness Summary: Document summarizing the significant comments received during a public comment period and documenting the lead agency's responses to the comments.

Site: The Kennecott Mines and Mill Town Site, which comprises the area contaminated or potentially contaminated by a release or threatened release of hazardous substances.



APPENDIX B: ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD FILE AND INFORMATION REPOSITORY DETAILS

The Site administrative record file is maintained at three locations, which may be reviewed at the following information repositories during the hours indicated:

Location	
Location Name:	NPS Alaska Regional Office (open year-round)
Address:	240 W. 5 th Avenue Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone:	(907) 644-3510
Email:	https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1840/contactus.htm
Days and Hours:	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday

Location	
Location Name:	WRST Park Headquarters (open year-round)
Address:	P.O. Box 439 Mile 106.8 Richardson Highway Copper Center, AK 99573-0439
Phone:	(907) 822-5234
Email:	https://www.nps.gov/wrst/contacts.htm
Days and Hours:	9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday (open year-round)

Location	
Location Name:	Kennecott Visitor Center (open seasonally)
Address:	Blackburn School, Kennecott, AK 99566 Mailing Address: P.O. Box MXY Glennallen, AK 99588
Phone:	(907) 205-7106
Email:	https://www.nps.gov/wrst/planyourvisit/kennecott-visitor-center.htm
Days and Hours:	Summer Hours (Memorial Day – Labor Day): please call for available hours Winter Hours: Closed



APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY FACT SHEETS AND COMMUNITY UPDATES

Community Update Kennecott Mill Site – National Creek

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
Preserve

April 2019



SITE BACKGROUND

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST) encompasses nearly 13.2 million acres of land in southcentral Alaska and is part of a World Heritage Site. The Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark (NHL) (Site) is located in WRST approximately five miles north of McCarthy, Alaska, and consists of a historic copper mill and associated mine facilities, buildings, and related historic features. Currently much of the Site is owned by the National Park Service (NPS) and is a popular tourist destination, where people come to visit the historic mill, mines and town. National Creek is a small perennial creek that flows through the center of the Site.



The Kennecott mines, mill, and related facilities were developed and operated by the Kennecott Copper Corporation between 1906 and 1938. The mill building, and later the leach plant, received and concentrated ore from the nearby mines. Today, the Kennecott Mines NHL primarily consists of historic buildings and other structures that were used to support the copper ore processing operations. These historic structures contained lead- and arsenic-based paint as well as asbestos used as insulation throughout the Site. The Site also was constructed over areas filled with mine and mill tailings from the operation. Since acquiring the Site in 1998, NPS has been stabilizing and rehabilitating the historic structures. While several of the historic buildings have been rehabilitated, others still have peeling lead-based paint. In addition, dust accumulation is an issue throughout the Site. NPS's rehabilitation work, as well as investigations previously conducted at the Site, indicate that these remaining sources of heavy metals could be released to National Creek via erosion and/or surface water run-off during storm events.

NATIONAL CREEK PRELIMINARY WATER TESTING

NPS collected water samples from National Creek in 2018 to obtain preliminary, screening-level information regarding National Creek water quality. The samples were analyzed for heavy metals (arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, and mercury) that are known or suspected to be present at the Site and could be released to National Creek via erosion and/or storm water runoff. Samples were not tested for any biological contamination. Water samples were collected over a four-month period (July through October) from four locations both upstream and downstream of the Site.

Several heavy metals were detected in the National Creek water samples during one or more of the monthly sampling events including arsenic, total chromium, copper, and zinc. Cadmium, lead, and mercury were not detected. All metal





concentrations detected were well below established Federal U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) (arsenic, total chromium, copper) and EPA screening levels for drinking water (zinc). MCLs are established by EPA and are the maximum concentration of a chemical that is considered safe in public drinking water systems. Because no MCL has been established for zinc, zinc concentrations were compared to EPA screening levels for drinking water. Only total chromium and zinc were detected in the sample upstream of the mill structures: chromium was detected one time in August 2018 at a concentration two orders of magnitude below its MCL, while zinc was detected one time in July 2018 at a concentration one order of magnitude less than its EPA screening level for drinking water.

Based upon these data, National Creek surface water currently appears to be a safe drinking water source in terms of metal concentrations; however, because the Site may continue to act as a source of contamination to National Creek, NPS recommends that park employees and the public refrain from obtaining water at locations that are adjacent to or downstream of historic structures until NPS has more fully evaluated the nature and extent of Site contamination and the associated potential human and ecological risks. Because of the potential for contaminant concentrations to be higher in stream sediment than in clear running water, users of water obtained from National Creek should avoid disturbing sediment or collecting water when turbid due to storm run-off or other causes. Users of creek water also should be aware of the potential for biological contaminants to be present.

Three drinking water samples were also collected from treated tap water that is used by NPS staff at the maintenance office. These samples were collected from August through October 2018. While copper, lead, and zinc were detected in samples from the treated tap water, all levels were also below their respective MCL (copper and lead) or EPA screening level (zinc).

Further, because rehabilitation/remediation of the mill buildings is incomplete, all NPS staff and the public should practice good personal hygiene when in the mill area by keeping hands away from the nose, eyes, and mouth until they can be washed with soap and water.

NEXT STEPS - ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

Because hazardous substances that may pose a threat to public health or welfare or the environment remain on Site, NPS, pursuant to its authority under the Comprehensive Environmental, Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (commonly known as the Superfund), will be proceeding with a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The RI/FS is a comprehensive investigation at the Site that will include sampling of various environmental media (e.g., soil, National Creek surface water and sediment, groundwater, air, etc.) and potential source areas (e.g., mill tailings, building materials) to fully characterize Site contamination; an assessment of potential human health and ecological risks associated with exposure to hazardous substances that may be present; and evaluation of remedial alternatives to address identified risks. NPS is currently in the planning stages of the RI/FS.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community involvement is an important part of the NPS CERCLA process. Prior to implementation of field investigation activities, NPS will issue a Community Involvement Plan and establish the Administrative Record file for the Site. The Community Involvement Plan will guide public involvement during the RI/FS process. The Administrative Record file will contain all the documents and information relied upon during selection of the response action (e.g., planning documents, investigation reports, etc.). Information repositories will also be established at a location open to members of the general public where a collection of documents (including the Administrative Record file) relevant to the Site will be made available for public viewing and copying.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning the information contained in this Community Update, please contact Mark Miller, Team Lead for Resource Stewardship and Science, via email at memiller@nps.gov or by phone at 907-822-7212.

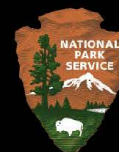


Community Update Kennecott Mines and Mill Town Site Air Exposure Assessment

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
Preserve

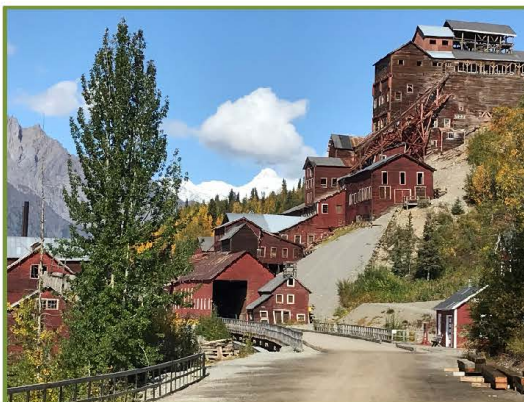
July 2020



BACKGROUND

The Kennecott Mines and Mill Town Site (Site) is a historic mining and milling area located within the Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve near McCarthy, Alaska. Currently, much of the Site is owned by the United States Government and managed by the National Park Service (NPS), with numerous private properties dispersed within and around the Site.

The Kennecott mines, mill, and related facilities were developed and operated by the Kennecott Copper Corporation between 1906 and 1938. The Mill Building, and later the Leaching Plant, received and concentrated ore from the nearby mines. Today, the Mill Town primarily consists of historic buildings and other structures that were used to support the copper ore processing operations. These historic structures contained lead- and arsenic-based paint as well as asbestos used as insulation. Since acquiring the Site in 1998, NPS has been stabilizing and rehabilitating the historic structures. While several of the historic buildings have been rehabilitated, others still have peeling lead- and arsenic-based paint. In addition, dust that may contain heavy metals associated with historical operations accumulates on surfaces throughout the Site. NPS's rehabilitation work and inspections previously conducted at the Site indicate that heavy metals from paint and mill tailings, as well as other potential contaminants such as asbestos and petroleum-related compounds remaining on Site from historical operations, could be present in indoor and outdoor air and dust.



KENNECOTT MILL TOWN AIR EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT

NPS conducted sampling in September 2019 to evaluate potential airborne contamination and fugitive dust exposures to both park employees and park visitors (fugitive dust is dust that becomes airborne from disturbances such as foot traffic or wind). Personal exposure sampling was performed on several park employees while the employees were performing routine park work tasks throughout the Mill Town (e.g., indoor/outdoor cleaning, light construction work, and Mill Town walks and tours). Personal exposure sampling was also conducted to simulate potential visitor exposure during a guided Mill Building tour. Area air samples were collected in visitor- and employee-occupied locations inside and outside of buildings.



Personal and area air samples were analyzed for airborne metals (e.g., arsenic, lead, mercury), respirable crystalline silica, asbestos fibers, total and respirable dust, and, within the Power Plant Building, volatile organic compounds and polyaromatic hydrocarbons.

All personal exposure air sampling of employees and all area air sample results for each of the contaminants evaluated were below applicable occupational exposure



limits. Although there are no exposure limits established for the contaminants evaluated for the general public, the sampling results of the simulated visitor tour were also well below applicable occupational exposure limits for workers and thus the detected concentrations are not expected to present an airborne hazard to either child or adult visitors to the park. Further, relative to a worker's exposure, the short-term airborne exposure for an occasional visitor who may be present at the park for only a day or two is expected to be very low.

Based upon these data, air quality at locations inside and outside of buildings throughout the Mill Town is safe and not expected to present a hazard to visitors or park workers. However, because area soils and dust on surfaces both inside and outside of Mill Town buildings contain contaminants such as lead, arsenic, and asbestos, NPS recommends that all park visitors and other members of the public practice good personal hygiene when in the Mill Town area by keeping hands away from the nose, eyes, and mouth until they can be washed with soap and water. To encourage this, NPS has supplied and maintains hand-washing stations at key locations within the Mill Town, including at the bottom of the Mill Building (where guided tours exit the building). NPS also maintains signage at several locations within the Mill Town to warn visitors to avoid contact with area soils due to the presence of remaining on-Site contaminants.

NEXT STEPS - ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

Because hazardous substances that may pose a threat to public health or welfare or the environment remain on Site, NPS, pursuant to its authority under the Comprehensive Environmental, Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (commonly known as Superfund), is proceeding with a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The RI/FS is a comprehensive investigation at the Site that will include sampling of various environmental media (e.g., soil, surface water and sediment, groundwater, and air) and potential source areas to fully characterize Site contamination; an assessment of potential human health and ecological risks associated with exposure to hazardous substances that may be present; and, evaluation of remedial alternatives to address identified risks. NPS is currently preparing planning documents (e.g., a Sampling and Analysis Plan) that will guide on-Site RI data collection efforts planned for 2021. Data and information collected as part of the Air Exposure Assessment will be incorporated into the planning and development of the Site-wide RI/FS.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community involvement is an important part of the NPS CERCLA process. Prior to implementation of field investigation activities planned for 2021, NPS will issue a Community Involvement Plan and establish the Administrative Record file for the Site. The Community Involvement Plan will guide public involvement during the RI/FS process. The Administrative Record file will contain all the documents and information relied upon during selection of the response action (e.g., planning documents, investigation reports, etc.). Information repositories will also be established at a location open to members of the general public where a collection of documents (including the Administrative Record file) relevant to the Site will be made available for public viewing and copying.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning the information contained in this Community Update, please contact Mark Miller, Team Lead for Resource Stewardship and Science, via email at memiller@nps.gov or by phone at 907-822-7212.



APPENDIX D: CONTACT INFORMATION

The NPS will update contact information as necessary.

Site-Specific Contacts

For information about Site cleanup activities, please contact:

	Site Contact	Park Contact
Name:	Carrie R. Wittmer	Mark E. Miller
Title:	Park Public Information Officer	Team Lead, Resource Stewardship & Science, Research Coordinator
Organization:	National Park Service, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve	National Park Service, Wrangell – St. Elias National Park & Preserve
Address:	P.O. Box 439 / 106.8 Richardson Highway Copper Center, AK 99573	P.O. Box 439 / 106.8 Richardson Highway Copper Center, AK 99573
Phone:	(907) 822-7255	(907) 822-7212
Email:	carrie_wittmer@nps.gov	memiller@nps.gov

	NPS Region Contact	NPS Headquarters Contact
Name:	Sarah C. Venator	Veronica Dickerson
Title:	NPS Federal Government Lead	Environmental Protection & Safety Manager
Organization:	National Park Service, Wrangell – St. Elias National Park & Preserve	National Park Service, Environmental Compliance and Cleanup Division
Address:	240 W. 5 th Ave Anchorage, AK 99501	15610 Vaughn Road Brecksville, OH 44141
Phone:	(907) 644-3573	(440) 665-0915
Email:	sarah_venator@nps.gov	veronica_dickerson@nps.gov



Elected Official Contacts

Federal Elected Officials

	Senator	Senator
Name:	Lisa Murkowski	Dan Sullivan
Title:	Alaska Senator	Alaska Senator
Address:	510 L Street, Suite 600 Anchorage, AK 99501-1956	510 L Street, Suite 600 Anchorage, AK 99501-1956
Phone:	Phone: (907) 271-3735	Phone: (907) 271-3735
Email or Webform:	https://www.murkowski.senate.gov/contact/email	https://www.sullivan.senate.gov/contact/email

	House Representative
Name:	Don Young
Title:	Alaska District Representative
Address:	471 W. 36th Avenue, Suite 201 Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone:	(907) 271-5978
Email or Webform:	https://donyoung.house.gov/contact/

Alaska Elected Officials

	Governor	State Senator
Name:	Mike Dunleavy	Click Bishop
Title:	Governor	Senator
Address:	P.O. Box 110001 Juneau, AK 99811-0001	120 4th St Juneau, AK 99801
Phone:	(907) 465-3500	(907) 456-8163
Email or Webform:	https://gov.alaska.gov/contact/	cody.grussendorf@akleg.gov christopher.clark@akleg.gov darwin.peterson@akleg.gov

	State House Representative
Name:	Mike Cronk
Title:	Representative
Address:	120 4th St Juneau, AK 99801
Phone:	(907) 465-4527
Email or Webform:	Representative.Mike.Cronk@akleg.gov



Federal Agencies

	EPA Region 10	EPA Region 10
Name:	Marcia Combs	Mike Brussel
Title:	Director of Alaska Operations	Director for the Office of Enforcement, Compliance and Environmental Justice
Organization:	EPA Region 10 (Pacific Northwest)	EPA Region 10 (Pacific Northwest)
Address:	222 West 7 th Ave. #19 Anchorage, AK 99513-7588	1200 6 th Ave., Suite 900 Seattle, WA 98101 (Mail Code OCE-164)
Phone:	(800) 424-4372	(206) 553-4198
Email:	combes.marcia@epamail.epa.gov	Bussell.Mike@epa.gov

	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Name:	Philip Johnson
Title:	Supervisor Environmental Contaminants
Organization:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Address:	1011 East Tudor Road Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone:	(907) 786-3483
Email:	Philip_johnson@fws.gov ak_fisheries@fws.gov

Alaska Agencies

	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	National Register of Historic Places
Name:	Eric Breitenberger	Ms. Judith E. Bittner
Title:	Environmental Program Manager I	State Historic Preservation Officer Department of Natural Resources
Organization:	Contaminated Sites Program Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	National Register of Historic Places
Address:	610 University Ave. Fairbanks, AK 99709	550 W 7 th Avenue, Suite 1310 Anchorage, AK 99501-3565
Phone:	(907) 451-2158	(907) 269-8721
Email:	Eric.breitenberger@alaska.gov	Judy.bittner@alaska.gov



	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Name:	Doug Vincent-Lang	Susan Magee
Title:	Commissioner	ANILCA Program Coordinator
Organization:	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Address:	P.O. Box 115526 1255 W. 8 th Street Juneau, AK 99811-5526	550 W. 7 th Avenue, Suite 1430 Anchorage, AK 99501-3568
Phone:	(907) 465-4100	(907) 269-7529
Email:	Douglas.vincent-lang@alaska.gov	http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/opmp/anilca/

	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Name:	John Hoffman
Title:	Tazlina District Maintenance and Operations Superintendent
Organization:	Alaska Department of Transportation
Address:	P.O. Box 7 Glennallen, AK 99588
Phone:	(907) 822-3222
Email:	john.hoffman@alaska.gov

Alaska Native Tribes or Corporations

	Chitina Native Corporation	Ahtna, Incorporated
Name:	Jason Billum	Joe Bovee
Title:	IGAP EPA Coordinator	Vice President of Land and Resources
Organization:	Chitina Traditional Indian Village Council	Ahtna, Incorporated
Address:	P.O. Box 31, Mile 34 Edgerton Highway Chitina, AK 99566	PO Box 649 Glennallen, AK 99588
Phone:	(907) 823-2215 ext. 23	
Email:	ctivcirr@outlook.com	jbovee@ahtna-inc.com



Local School District and Schools

	Kenny Lake School
Name:	Corey Weiss
Title:	Special Programs and Interventions Coordinator
Organization:	Copper River School District
Address:	Mile 5 Edgerton Hwy Copper Center, AK 99573
Phone:	(907) 822-5286
Email:	cweiss@crsd.us

Community Organizations and Environmental Groups

	Copper Country Alliance	Friends of Kennecott
Name:	Ruth McHenry	Sally Gibert
Title:	Director	Secretary of Board of Directors
Organization:	Copper Country Alliance	Friends of Kennecott
Address:	HC 60 Box 306T Copper Center, AK 99573	P.O. Box 241362 Anchorage AK, 99524
Phone:	(907) 822-5051	(907) 258-7349
Email:	cca@coppervalleyak.net	sgibert@aol.com

	McCarthy Area Council	National Parks Conservation Association
Name:	Mark Vail	Jim Adams
Title:	President	Regional Director
Organization:	McCarthy Area Council	National Parks Conservation Association
Address:	P.O. Box MXY Glennallen, AK 99588	750 West 2 nd Avenue, Suite 205 Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone:		(907) 277-6722
Email:	www.mxycouncil.org	alaska@npca.org



	Wrangell Institute of Science and Environment	Wrangell Mountains Center
Name:	Robin Mayo	Sophie Littée
Title:	Executive Director	Operations Manager
Organization:	Wrangell Institute of Science and Environment	Wrangell Mountains Center
Address:	HC 60 Box 338A, Mile 5, Old Edgerton Highway Kenny Lake, AK 99573	P.O. Box 142972 Anchorage, AK 99514-2972
Phone:	(907) 822-3575	(907) 554-4464
Email:	contact@wise-edu.org	sophie@wrangells.org

Media

Online News

	Copper River Country Journal 2020
Title:	Copper River Country Journal 2020
Link:	https://www.countryjournal2020.com/2020/
Contact Name:	
Contact Address:	
Contact Phone:	
Contact Email or Webform:	Countryjournal2020@gmail.com

Newspapers

	Copper River Record	The Cordova Times
Name:	John Tierney	Annette Potter
Title:	Editor and Publisher	Managing Editor
Organization:	Copper River Record	The Cordova Times
Address:	P.O. Box 277 Glennallen, AK 99588	P.O. Box 1388 110 Nicholoff Way Cordova, AK 99574
Phone:	(907) 235-4486	(907) 424-7738
Email:	mail@copperriverrecord.com	apotter@cordovaitimes.com



	Mukluk News
Name:	Beth Jacobs
Title:	Editor
Organization:	Mukluk News
Address:	90 Midnight Sun Drive Tok, AK 99780
Phone:	(907) 883-2571
Email:	

Radio Stations

	KCHU Terminal Radio, Inc.	KCAM Radio
Name:	KCHU Terminal Radio	KCAM Radio
Link:	news@kchu.org	kcam@kcam.org
Address:	P.O. Box 467 128 Pioneer Drive Valdez, AK 99686	Box 249, Mile 187 Glenn Hwy Glennallen, AK 99588
Phone:	(907) 835-4671	(907) 822-5226

Television Stations

	ARCS Television	Alaska Public Media - KAKM Public Television
Address:	P.O. Box 200009 Anchorage, AK 99520	3877 University Drive Anchorage, AK 99508-4676
Phone:	(907) 277-6300 ext. 60024	(907) 550-8400
Email:	kim@akpb.org	www.alaskapublic.org/about/contact/

	KYUR Channel 13 ABC	KTBY Fox Channel 4 Television
Address:	2700 E. Tudor Road Anchorage, AK 99507	2700 E. Tudor Road Anchorage, AK 99507
Phone:	(907) 762-8806	(907) 762-8806
Email:	news@youralaskalink.com	news@youralaskalink.com

	KYES TV Channel 5 CBS	KTUU Channel 2 NBC
Address:	501 East 40 th Avenue Anchorage, AK 99503	501 East 40 th Avenue Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone:	(907) 762-9202	(907) 762-9202
Email:	www.alaskasnewsresource.com/page/submit-a-news-tip/	www.alaskasnewsresource.com/page/submit-a-news-tip/



APPENDIX E: NCP COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The NCP specifies the following community involvement requirements for the non-time-critical removal action at this Site:

Remedial Actions

Required When	Requirement	Citation – 40 C.F.R.
Prior to commencing field work for the Remedial Investigation	Establish two information repositories (one at a central location and one at or near the Site), and establish an administrative record file and place in each of the information repositories; publish notice of availability in a major local newspaper of general circulation.	§ 300.430(c)(2)(iii); § 300.805(a); § 300.815(a)
	Conduct community interviews.	§ 300.430(c)(2)(i)
	Prepare and issue a Community Involvement Plan.	§ 300.430(c)(2)(ii)
Upon publication of the Proposed Plan	Publish a notice of availability of the Proposed Plan, including a brief analysis of the Proposed Plan, in a major local newspaper of general circulation.	§ 300.430(f)(3)(i)(A); § 300.815(b)
	Make the Proposed Plan and supporting analysis and information available in the administrative record file.	§ 300.430(f)(3)(i)(B); § 300.815(b)
	Provide a public comment period of at least 30 days for submission of written and oral comments on the Proposed Plan, Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, and other supporting analysis and information. Upon timely request during the public comment period, extend the public comment period by a minimum of 30 additional days.	§ 300.430(f)(3)(i)(C); § 300.815(b)
	Conduct a public meeting at or near the Site during the public comment period regarding the Proposed Plan, Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, and other supporting analysis and information.	§ 300.430(f)(3)(i)(D)



Required When	Requirement	Citation – 40 C.F.R.
	Have the public meeting transcribed and make the transcript available to the public in the administrative record file.	§ 300.430(f)(3)(i)(E)
After the close of the public comment period on the Proposed Plan	Prepare a written summary of significant comments, criticisms, and new relevant information submitted during the public comment period and the NPS response to each issue (“responsiveness summary”) and make it available with the Record of Decision.	§ 300.430(f)(3)(i)(F); § 300.815(b)
After the ROD is signed and prior to the commencement of any remedial action	Make the Record of Decision available for public inspection and copying at or near the Site and in the administrative record file.	§ 300.430(f)(6)(ii); § 300.810(a)(4)
	Publish a notice of availability for the Record of Decision in a major local newspaper of general circulation.	§ 300.430(f)(6)(i)
Prior to Remedial Design	Review the Community Involvement Plan and revise if further community involvement activities should be provided during remedial design and remedial action that were not addressed or provided for in the initial Community Involvement Plan.	§ 300.435(c)(1)
Prior to Remedial Action	Issue a Community Update on the remedial action.	§ 300.435(c)(3)
	As appropriate, provide a public briefing on the remedial action.	§ 300.435(c)(3)



Removal Actions

Time-Critical Removal Action

Required When	Requirement	Citation– 40 C.F.R.
	Designate a Site spokesperson.	§ 300.415(n)(1)
If <u>less than</u> a six-month planning period and <u>fewer than</u> 120 days of on-site removal activities	Establish an administrative record file when the Action Memorandum is signed. Place copies of the administrative record in each of two information repositories—one at or near the Site, and the other in a central location.	§ 300.415(n)(2)(i); § 300.805(a); § 300.820(b)(1)
	Within 60 days of the start of on-site removal activities, publish notice of availability of the administrative record file in a major local newspaper of general circulation.	§ 300.415(n)(2)(i); § 300.820(b)(1)
	As appropriate, provide a public comment period of at least 30 days from the time the administrative record file is made available.	§ 300.415(n)(2)(ii); § 300.820(b)(2)
	After the close of the public comment period, prepare a written response to significant comments received during the public comment period; consider and respond to significant comments submitted before the public comment period, as appropriate; place any such responses into the administrative record file.	§ 300.415(n)(2)(iii); § 300.820(b)(2)
If <u>less than</u> a six-month planning period and <u>more than</u> 120 days of on-site removal activities	When the Action Memorandum is signed, establish two information repositories (one at a central location and one at or near the Site), and establish an administrative record file and place in the information repositories.	§ 300.415(n)(3)(iii); § 300.800(a); § 300.805(a)
	Within 60 days of the start of on-site removal activities, publish notice of availability of the information repository and the administrative record file in a major local newspaper of general circulation.	§ 300.415(n)(2)(ii); § 300.820(b)(1)

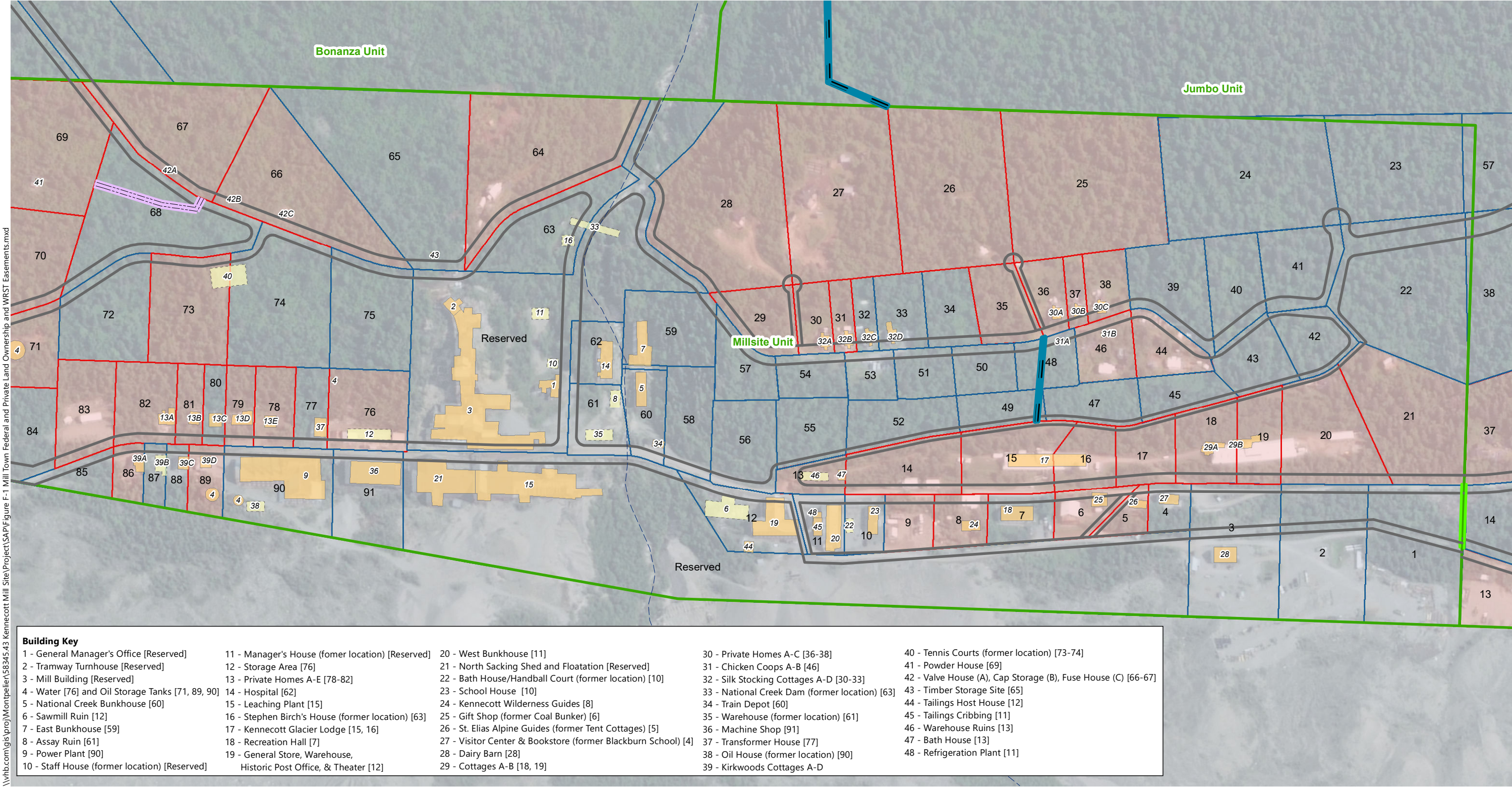


Required When	Requirement	Citation– 40 C.F.R.
	As appropriate, provide a public comment period of at least 30 days from the time the administrative record file is made available.	§ 300.415(n)(3)(iii); § 300.820(b)(2)
	After the close of the public comment period, prepare a written response to significant comments received during the public comment period; consider and respond to significant comments submitted before the public comment period, as appropriate; place any such responses into the administrative record file.	§ 300.415(n)(3)(iii); § 300.820(b)(2)
	Within 120 days of the start of on-site removal activities, conduct community interviews.	§ 300.415(n)(3)(i)
	Within 120 days of the start of on-site removal activities, prepare a Community Involvement Plan.	§ 300.415(n)(3)(ii)



Non-Time-Critical Removal Action

Required When	Requirement	Citation– 40 C.F.R.
	Designate a Site spokesperson.	§ 300.415(n)(1)
No later than when the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis Approval Memorandum is signed	Establish two information repositories (one at a central location and one at or near the Site), and establish an administrative record file and place in the information repositories.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(i); § 300.800(a); § 300.805(a)
	Publish notice of availability of the information repositories and the administrative record file in a major local newspaper of general circulation.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(i); § 300.820(a)(1)
Prior to completion of the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis	Conduct community interviews.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(i)
	Prepare and issue a Community Involvement Plan.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(i)
Upon completion of Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis and publication of the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis Report	Publish notice of availability and brief description of the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis Report in a major local newspaper of general circulation.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(ii); § 300.820(a)(1)
	Provide a public comment period of at least 30 days for submission of written and oral comments. Upon timely request during the public comment period, extend the public comment period by a minimum of 15 additional days.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(iii); § 300.820(a)(2)
	After the close of the public comment period, prepare a written response to significant comments received during the public comment period; consider and respond to significant comments submitted before the public comment period, as appropriate; place any such responses into the administrative record file.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(iv); § 300.820(a)(2)



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