

**ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION
ANCHORAGE TERMINAL RESERVE SITE**

FACT SHEET—July 15, 2004

The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 (EPA) have signed an Administrative Order on Consent effective June 29, 2004 to implement an environmental remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) at the Anchorage Terminal Reserve in Anchorage, Alaska (Site). The 600-acre Site is located just north of downtown Anchorage. Ship Creek flows through the Site and empties into the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet.

Various agencies of the federal government, including the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), owned and operated the Site from 1915 to 1985. In 1985, railroad operations were transferred to the state-owned Alaska Railroad Corporation. The Site includes the ARRC Anchorage rail yard and adjoining properties that during both the federal and ARRC ownership have been leased to other industrial and commercial businesses. These businesses range from small convenience stores to large oil storage operations. Release of industrial wastes and petroleum products from past industrial and commercial operations have caused soil and groundwater contamination at the Site. Preliminary environmental testing has shown that some of the soil and groundwater contamination at the Site exceeds levels established to protect human health and the environment.

Under EPA direction and oversight, ARRC will conduct the RI/FS to characterize Site conditions, determine the nature and extent of contamination, assess the risk to human health and the environment, and develop and evaluate alternatives for any cleanup that may be needed. The RI/FS process requires a detailed study and evaluation and can take several years to complete.

Before or during the RI/FS, ARRC may carry out focused investigations or interim actions to accelerate data collection or cleanup at certain areas of the Site. Such actions may include:

- Surface water and sediment sampling in Ship Creek
- Excavating contaminated soils and debris for off-site disposal or treatment
- Installing engineered controls, which could include capping, treatment and storm water controls.

Throughout the RI/FS process, EPA and ARRC will encourage public involvement. Public meetings, newsletters, fact sheets and project documents will be made available to the community on a regular basis and the public will have an opportunity to comment throughout the process. When the RI/FS is completed, EPA will select one or more cleanup alternatives as needed to protect human health and the environment. ARRC will issue a periodic Technical Outreach Newsletter to provide a more detailed overview of the Site investigation process and provide more information regarding the elements of the RI/FS. This document and others, including the Administrative Order on Consent and the Statement of Work for the RI/FS, will be posted on the ARRC website as they become available, at www.alaskarailroad.com.

For more information, please contact Tim Thompson at 265-2695.