



LANDFILL 04 (LF04)

Elmendorf Air Force Base

History

Landfill 04 (LF04) is a historic landfill reported to have been used from the 1950s to 1960s. More precisely, LF04 consists of a series of landfill cells that spread over an area about 3,000 feet long and 600 feet wide on a bluff overlooking the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet. Several of the cells appear to be filled-in gullies. Initial Air Force investigations of the southern half of the site uncovered construction debris, primarily concrete, but also drums and old cars. The northern portion of LF04 contains general refuse.

Record of Decision

Elmendorf began studying the landfill in 1983 and in 1997 the Air Force, EPA and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation signed a Record of Decision (ROD) documenting the base's cleanup plan for LF04. The ROD requires removal of debris from the beach once a year. The removals, called "beach sweeps," were projected to continue until 2026 or as long as the exposed landfill waste was subject to tidal erosion.

Removal of the entire landfill has been considered cost prohibitive because it would entail taking out approximately 6 million cubic yards of material and cost about \$53 million; the cost of 30 years of beach sweeps is 10 per cent of that.

Continuing Cleanup

"Beach sweep" operations from 1997 to 2001 collected 220.5

tons (441,000 lbs.) of debris. Ninety-eight tons were collected the first year and the subsequent annual efforts have each yielded 26 - 34 tons. The debris has been primarily steel, wood and concrete, but ordnance, a drum of oily hazardous waste and an unmarked cylinder have also been found.

The Air Force has partnered with the Port of Anchorage to discourage access to LF04, including installation of a fence in 2000. Routine port security patrols 3-4 times a day help reduce foot traffic. Base explosive ordnance teams check the beach twice a year in addition to their patrols during the annual beach sweep

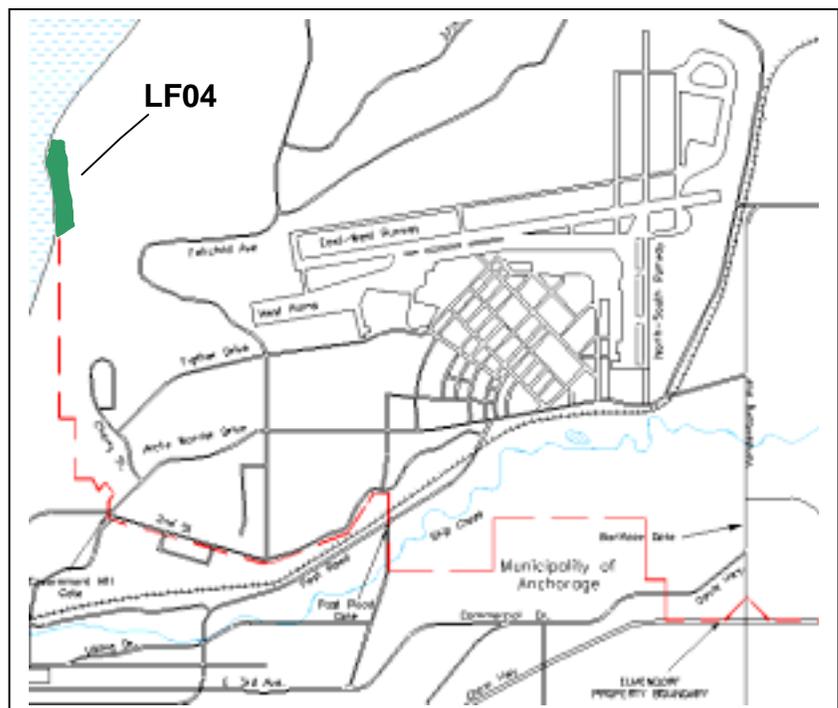
Five-year Review

During a 1998 review of the base's environmental cleanup program, the LF04 remedy was found to be protective of

human health and the environment and functioning as designed. The remedy will be reevaluated in future periodic reviews and, if necessary, further actions will be undertaken. Elmendorf is beginning the process for the next five-year review, which will be completed in Nov 2003. This review will evaluate the continued protectiveness of the selected remedy.

Institutional Controls

Institutional controls prohibit the use of the groundwater in the shallow aquifer under the southern portion of LF04. This area east of the beach is known as LF04 South and is included in the basewide groundwater monitoring program. Wells there are sampled annually for solvents and fuel products. The military property in both areas is used only for recreational activities and the construction of any manned facility is prohibited.





RIGHT: Debris from the 2000 beach sweep

For More Information

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Glossary

Institutional Controls: Policies and procedures established to control access and exposure to the soil, air and water. Controls can be placed on one specific environmental cleanup site, on a group of sites or basewide. These take many forms, from deed restrictions and water use limitations, to controls on future land use.

Landfill Cell: A specific location in which a quantity of waste is deposited.

Operable Unit (OU): A term used to describe a certain portion or study area within a Comprehensive environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) site. An OU may be based upon a particular type of contaminant, contaminated media (such as soil or water), source of contamination or geographical location.

Record of Decision (ROD): Document that is a consolidated source of information about the site, the remedy selection process, and the selected remedy for a cleanup. LF04 is part of the Operable Unit 6 ROD.

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