

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
STATEMENT OF BASIS/FACT SHEET
Draft Hazardous Waste Permit for
United States Air Force
Elmendorf Air Force Base
ID No. AK 857002 8649

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes to issue a Hazardous Waste Management Facility Permit to the United States Air Force, Elmendorf Air Force Base (Elmendorf AFB) to operate a hazardous waste container storage unit at the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO), Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF). This facility is located at 11735 Vandenberg Avenue, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. The ID number for USAF Elmendorf AFB is AK 857002 8649. This permit is being issued under the authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). This Statement of Basis explains the background and basis for issuance of the permit.

Copies of material supporting this proposal are available for review at the locations listed on the last page of this document.

This proposed permit is only for storage of hazardous waste at the DRMO TSDF. EPA is conducting public notice and comment on the draft permit. EPA will consider all written comments received during the public comment period and hearing, if held, before making a final determination on the permit.

When the final decision regarding the proposed permit is made, notice will be given to Elmendorf AFB and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice of the final comments. The final decision will state the date the permit will become effective. If no comments are received, the permit will become effective on

the date of the final decision. If EPA receives comments on the proposed permit, the permit will become effective no sooner than thirty (30) days after notice of the final decision is provided. If a review is requested pursuant to 40 CFR § 124.19, then the effective date of the permit may be affected.

Once the final decision is made, the permit will be in effect for ten years from the date of issuance, unless modified or withdrawn.

Background

EPA initially issued a Hazardous Waste Facility Management Permit to Elmendorf AFB on April 1, 1993 to operate two hazardous waste container storage units. These two units included the DRMO TSDF and another TSDF located at 4314 Kenney Avenue.

At the request of Elmendorf AFB, on March 30, 2000 EPA modified the permit to allow the Kenney Avenue unit to be closed earlier than anticipated. On July 22, 2002, EPA received notice from Elmendorf AFB that they would begin final closure activities. Elmendorf AFB initiated final closure activities of the Kenney Avenue unit on September 11, 2002. On May 6, 2003, EPA received certification of closure of the Kenney Avenue unit.

On March 6, 2003, EPA received the final Part B Permit Renewal Application from Elmendorf AFB for the DRMO TSDF. Hazardous wastes stored at the DRMO TSDF include, unused commercial chemical

products, petroleum oils and lubricants, paint-related materials, solvents, spent acids and bases, fluorescent bulbs, batteries, and waste ash from burners and incinerators. About 50 percent of the waste to be stored consists of wastes that exhibit the characteristic of ignitability such as petroleum oils and solvents. The DRMO TSDF can hold approximately 120,000 gallons of waste in containers.

Corrective Action

Section 3004(u) of RCRA and 40 CFR 264.101 require corrective action, as necessary to protect human health and the environment from all releases of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents from any solid waste management unit (SWMU) for all permits issued after November 8, 1984. In 1988, EPA and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) prepared a RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA) for Elmendorf AFB which identified 29 SWMUs.

In 1991, EPA, ADEC and Elmendorf AFB signed a Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) under Section 120(e) (2) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The FFA is a mechanism used to investigate and clean up releases of hazardous waste and constituents to protect human health and the environment. The 29 SWMUs identified in the RFA were included in the FFA and the FFA was made a condition of the 1993 Hazardous Waste Management Facility Permit.

Currently, Elmendorf AFB has cleaned up 14 SWMUs. These 14 SWMUs are not being included in the draft permit. Of the remaining 15 SWMUs, however 12 SWMUs have been deferred to the existing FFA and three SWMUs will be cleaned up under a joint agreement between Elmendorf AFB and ADEC.

The draft permit also includes conditions for identifying and cleaning up newly identified SWMUs as they are discovered.

Statutory Authorities

This document is being issued in accordance with 40 CFR § 124.8. The purpose of the permitting process is to specify administrative and operation requirements under which the Permittee must operate to comply with federal hazardous waste management requirements. Federal requirements are promulgated under RCRA as amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 (HSWA) and regulations adopted thereunder by EPA in 40 CFR Part 124 and 260 to 270. The regulatory requirements of a permit issued by EPA are provided under 40 CFR Parts 124 and 270. Section 7004(b) of RCRA and 40 CFR 124.6 require that EPA prepare draft permit conditions and provide for public comment.

How You May Participate

Interested persons and other governmental agencies are invited to submit written comments to EPA regarding the draft permit. Comments for this Draft Permit will be accepted for forty-five (45) days, from September 2, 2003 to October 17, 2003. Comments should include factual grounds and supporting material or references. A copy of the proposed permit is available on the EPA web page at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/owcm.nsf/permits/elmendorf>

or for review at the following locations.

Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS)
3150 C Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska
(907)272-7547

Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

U.S. EPA Region 10

Alaska Operations Office

New Federal Building – Room 537

222 W. 7th Avenue

Anchorage, Alaska 99513

(907)271-5083

Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

U.S. EPA Region 10

Seattle Office

10th Floor Library

1200 Sixth Avenue

Seattle, Washington 98101

(206)553-1259

Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

All written comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than October 17, 2003. All comments received within the public comment period will be considered before EPA makes a final decision on this proposed action. Your comments should include your name and address and all reasonable references, factual grounds and supporting material.

Please send your written comments to:

Howard Orlean

U.S. EPA, Region 10, WCM-121

1200 Sixth Avenue

Seattle, Washington 98101

Or e-mail to: orlean.howard@epa.gov

In addition, EPA may hold a public hearing if there is sufficient interest. Requests for a public hearing must be made in writing and must be postmarked or e-mailed by **October 17, 2003**. If a hearing is held, EPA will record oral comments from people who wish to make them. If you wish to find out whether a

hearing will take place, please call Howard Orlean at 1-800-424-4372 extension 2851 after October 17, 2003.

Once the comment period has expired EPA will consider all the comments submitted during that period in writing and during the public hearing, if held, and determine whether to issue the final permit. When the final decision regarding the proposed permit is made, notice will be given to Elmendorf AFB and to each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice of the final decision. The final decision will state the date the permit will become effective. If no comments are received on the Draft Permit, the final permit may become effective as early as the final decision date. If EPA receives comments on the proposed permit, the final permit will become effective no sooner than thirty (30) days after notice is provided. If a review is requested under 40 CFR § 124.19, then the effective date of the permit may be affected.

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact Howard Orlean at 1-800-424-4372 extension 2851, or Jan Palumbo at 1-800-424-4372 extension 6702.