

FORT GREELY

TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION CONTRACTS

A SUCCESS STORY

TERC WORKS



Loading a Supersack with low-level radioactive waste.

Fort Greely is located approximately 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks, Alaska, and consists of 640,000 acres. The installation provided a staging area for planes ferried to the Soviet Union during World War II. In 1962, a nuclear reactor was built to serve as Fort Greely's power plant; it was decommissioned in 1973. The base is being closed under the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Act and is in the process of transferring property to the Local Reuse Authority (LRA).

Initially, the Alaska District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identified 40 potentially contaminated sites requiring site investigations or limited remedial investigations. With an undefined scope, a mandated closure schedule, and funding available to investigate only 21 sites, the Corps chose its TERC contractor, Jacobs Engineering, to perform this work. The TERC cost reimbursement contract was the ideal mechanism for addressing and removing



Partnering with the community, customers, and regulators was essential to success.

radioactive contamination caused by the reactor.

During reactor operation, a 6,000-foot subsurface pipeline drained excess radioactive water from the reactor building to a dilution station for discharge to a river. This pipeline broke numerous times because of frost heaving, and radioactive water

was discharged into the complex geology of glacial tills and permafrost. Significant portions of the pipeline were missing, and numerous radioactive hot spots existed. During the 1997 field season, the TERC contractor removed 2,500 feet of radioactive piping and 600 cubic yards of contaminated soils along the pipeline corridor. Faced with extraordinary costs to dispose of the contaminated soils, the TERC team determined that volume reduction prior to disposal would reduce disposal costs by one-third. Half the pipeline corridor has been cleared for reuse with the balance scheduled for completion during 1998.

TERC approach proved well suited to indefinite work scopes.

Integral to the success of the project was the early partnering of the Corps, the TERC contractor, the Army BRAC Cleanup Team, the Restoration Advisory Board, the LRA, and the regulators. The partners established technical criteria and set work priorities within funding limitations. This consensus-building approach shortened review cycles, allowing for significant work to be completed in 1997. Through effective partnering, the local community learned about the technical challenges of the project and provided invaluable input to the decision-making process.



ALASKA DISTRICT

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