

UNALASKA/DUTCH HARBOR

TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION CONTRACTS

A SUCCESS STORY

Unalaska/Dutch Harbor is located in the Aleutian chain of western Alaska. A Japanese-owned freighter, M/V Kuroshima, ran aground near Dutch Harbor on 26 November 1997, spilling approximately 39,000 gallons of heavy black Bunker C fuel oil into Summer Bay and Summer Bay Lake. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help with the cleanup operation by providing technical support, transportation and disposal of liquid and solid wastes, thermal treatment of petroleum-impacted sands and debris, and wastewater treatment.

When the spill occurred, the Alaska District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers already had its TERC contractor, Jacobs Engineering, mobilized at Unalaska. The contractor was performing a 5-year remediation effort under the Formerly Used Defense Sites program. The USCG transferred \$2.5 million from the National Spill Response Fund to the Alaska District, and on 30 November, the Corps notified Jacobs Engineering of the scope of work at

TERC WORKS



Spill response teams performing cleanup on beach.



Dutch Harbor. Within 2 days, the contractor was on-site in Dutch Harbor providing timely response to the oil spill cleanup effort. Original assumptions of quantities to be remediated increased five-

\$500,000 saved during oil spill cleanup response.

fold, and severe winter weather (snow and 100-mile-per-hour gale-force winds) complicated the response action.

The contractor's environmental cleanup expertise and "can-do" attitude, coupled with the use of its regional treatment facility at this location, contributed to the success

of the project. Existing subcontracts for soil treatment, waste transportation, and recycling/treatment were modified using previously negotiated fixed unit rates. In addition, the use of health and safety plans already approved for the Unalaska/Dutch Harbor site facilitated the Corps' ability to react quickly to this emergency situation.

An experienced TERC team assisted the USCG in making field decisions, expediting regulator concurrence, and operating under existing soil, air, and wastewater permits. The TERC contractor also was able to use previously established blanket purchase agreements with local small and small disadvantaged businesses to support the response action.

Use of existing permits and subcontracts reduced response time.

The flexible, responsive TERC contracting approach enabled the Corps to respond immediately to this emergency. This quick response minimized risk to the customer and the environment and saved an estimated \$150,000 in procurement and permitting costs, plus \$350,000 in mobilization costs.



ALASKA DISTRICT

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