



CH2MHILL

Applied Sciences Laboratory

Case Study

Galena, Alaska Field Laboratory



Soil samples were collected at the Kalakaket Creek radio relay station. The site is accessible only by helicopter.



CMN/GAL – Galena KKK, Kalakaket Creek

ASL chemists provided onsite analytical support for a site investigation at the Kalakaket Creek Radio Relay Station in Alaska. In an effort to assist the U.S. Air Force in the cleanup of the site, CH2M HILL was hired to perform the investigation using the TRIAD approach, which is a work strategy for economically managing project decision uncertainties to reduce the cost and amount of time required to conduct a contaminated site investigation using systematic planning, dynamic work strategies, and real-time measurements.

Because quick turnaround of analytical data is a key strategy to this approach, and the remoteness of the site made it difficult to ship samples offsite, ASL was tasked with setting up an onsite laboratory to provide rapid and legally defensible analytical data. The site is an abandoned Air Force Radio Relay Station used for Forward Propagation Tropospheric Scatter (that is the checkerboard structure in the photograph – aimed toward another remote Radio Relay Station) and microwave communication during the Cold War. It was one of the stations that made up the White Alice Communications System network, but was abandoned as the Cold War ended and it became more practical to use satellites for communication. The site is located in the Alaskan interior about 300 miles west of Fairbanks.

The onsite laboratory was set up at an abandoned quick strike Air Force base turned boarding school in the small town of Galena, located on the Yukon River 20 miles to the north of the site. The laboratory operated 7 days a week for two months while the site investigation was conducted. Results from the testing helped the project team make rapid sampling decisions to allow them to quickly and efficiently delineate the site. ASL staff who supported the remote laboratory operation included Amber Taylor, Ryan Armstrong, Kasey Carlson, Mike Schaadt, Regan McMorris, and Ben Thompson.

More information on White Alice and the site can be found at www.whitealice.net.

Contacts

For more information on this and other services
CH2M HILL's ASL can provide, please contact:

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