



Brice Environmental

Repair/Replace Fire Hydrant System

Location: Eareckson, Air Station (Shemya) Alaska

Client: Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency

Project Cost: \$2,446,710

Prime Contractor or Subcontractor:
Subcontractor to AMEC

Project Manager: Craig Jones

Superintendent: Bill Hanson

Work Performed: 2010



Eareckson Air Station is a remote airfield installation on Shemya Island at the end of the Aleutian chain, approximately 1,500 miles from Anchorage, Alaska. Access was via government scheduled aircraft on a limited capacity and only once per week.

The contract stipulated that Brice provide all materials, labor, equipment and supervision to implement the work described in the Statement of Work. The project was to replace existing asbestos/cement pipe and upgrade to code compliance the location and operability of the fire protection system.

The scope of work included the following:

- Line "E" – replace approximately 1900 LF of 8-in pipe, valves and hydrants. Pipe will be 8-in. HDPE, valves shall be 8-in., flanged end, cast iron, bronzed trimmed, rising stem gate valves.
- Line "C" – replace approximately 800 LF of 12-in. pipe with 10- in. HDPE pipe, valves and hydrants. Valves to be 10-in., flanged end, rising stem, cast iron, bronze trimmed.
- Pressure testing and flushing of new lines, chlorination, dechlorination, and all Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) permits and sampling.
- Proper handling and disposal of asbestos piping.
- Subcontractor shall comply with ADEC requirements for replacing installation of potable water lines.



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Brice mobilized to the site in March and completed all site work by late April 2010.

Brice used pipe bursting technology for the pipe replacement. An expanding device called an expander head was introduced into the existing pipeline through a launching pit. As it traveled through the pipeline toward the receiving pit it expanded the Transite asbestos-cement pipe.



New HDPE pipe was attached to the back of the expander head, replacing the line.

Most of the old pipe stayed in the ground except for the last 10-ft that needed to be collected and disposed of. Brice had certified asbestos abatement workers onsite to perform this work.

HDPE pipe fusion welding was also done on this project using certified welders.

Project challenges included:

- Adverse weather – winds exceeding 100 mph occurred several times during the project.
- Poor records of previous work at the installation.
- Buried items from WWII

