

Environmental Action UPDATE



Air Force Environmental Activities at Former McClellan AFB – April 2024

Air Force Readies for the 2024 Field Season; Closes Out 2023 with Property Transfer Achievement

The McClellan 2024 field season is right around the corner and the Air Force environmental cleanup team is preparing to “hit the dirt” in April. When not in the field during the winter months from December to March, the Air Force is busy planning activities to maximize the upcoming field season’s work, and reviews the past season’s progress and next steps.

One of the highlights from the 2023 field season was the transfer of two lots to the local community, another mission milestone that brings the cleanup work at McClellan a bit closer to completion. This long-awaited transfer of two lots was completed by a signing event in November 2023 between Sacramento County and McClellan Business Park representatives, which makes these lots available for reuse at the former base.

“This is good news, final completion of the transfer documents for Lots 149E and 159D reduces the remaining number of lots for cleanup from nine to seven now,” said Steve Mayer, McClellan BRAC Environmental Coordinator. “The remaining seven lots will be transferred once the ongoing soil cleanup is completed and the review process is done by our regulatory partners.”

Combined, these two lots are under an acre, with the remaining number of acres left to be transferred at approximately 195 acres. Since its closure in 2001—3,269 acres of the former base have been transferred for local reuse.

Progress continues to be made with every field season which runs from April to October, and is a buzz in activities from excavating and investigating sites, to loading and hauling away soil. The ongoing scientific and engineering work is being done to remediate sites to ensure protectiveness of human health and the environment—and to ultimately transfer all the McClellan sites to the local community.



Air Force Civil Engineer Center representative, Steve Mayer, McClellan BRAC Environmental Coordinator (center) and engineering contractors, Gary Yuki, Sr. Environmental Scientist, Cherokee Nation Business (left) and Buddy Walsler, Ph.D., Sr. Scientist, Cherokee Nation Business (right), discuss cleanup progress during a site visit at CS 69A in 2023. Work to complete the remediation of this site will resume in the spring of 2024.

Cleanup Update

Confirmed Site (CS) 040



Air Force environmental contractor scans excavation sidewalls at CS 040 to determine soil composition by using an X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analyzer. XRF analyzers are one of the many tools environmental engineers and scientists are using in the cleanup effort at McClellan.

The Air Force continued to conduct sampling and excavation work at this former industrial wastewater treatment plant—for chemical contaminants of concern during the 2023 field season. Laboratory results from confirmation sampling of soils is currently being evaluated to determine if the site is ready for backfilling and site restoration.

Area of Concern (AOC) 314

Soil excavation continued at this former ammunition storage area during the 2023 field season. Gamma scanning at excavated areas continue to be done along with soil sampling, weather permitting during the winter. Sample results will determine where additional areas will require remediation for radium. AOC 314 is winterized with a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPP) in place to mitigate impacts from winter rains. The Air Force is finalizing work plans for this site and will resume remediation work in May.

PRL S-038

A cleanup work plan revision was prepared in 2023 for this former disposal area where radium contamination was detected. The plan will address sampling, excavation work and a final status survey report. The site is winterized and SWPP is in place. There is no health risk to the public due to security fencing which prevents access to these sites.

CS 067



Remediation work progressed at CS 067 during the 2023 field season and will resume in 2024.

Excavation work and confirmation sampling was performed in the 2023 field season at this former disposal site. It was winterized with SWPP in place for anticipated winter rains. Excavation of any remaining elevated readings is set to resume in the 2024 field season.

CS 69A

Excavation work was completed for the 2023 field season at this former burn pit/industrial incinerator site. SWPP is in place for the winter. The Air Force will relocate an existing water supply line running through the site, and complete excavation of impacted soils when the Consolidation Unit at McClellan is re-opened to accept soils in the spring of 2024.

Groundwater Treatment Plant



Construction work of the new Ground Water Treatment Plant began in 2023. Footprint of the new plant takes shape north of the current GWTP (background right), where it will be demolished to gain access to remediate sites beneath it. The new relocated plant is scheduled to be completed and operational in spring 2024.

Construction of the new groundwater treatment plant progressed during the 2023 field season and is scheduled to be completed by spring 2024. The relocation of the plant will allow the Air Force to complete excavation work at former disposal sites CS 69 and PRL 20, where soil contamination is present beneath the current plant.

New Project Underway at McClellan to Research other PFAS Sources

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and USACE engineering contractor—are working together on a new project to determine where other potential sources of Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, or PFAS may have been used at McClellan, other than in firefighting foam (AFFF)—which is being researched separately.

This new project is taking a focused look into other areas where products with PFAS substances were potentially used and stored when the base was active. Past activities such as carpet cleaning, automotive and aircraft parts washing, and other uses are being researched. *See chart below for examples.*

Former Shops/Building	Processes	Product with Potential PFAS
Automotive/hobby	Descaling/cleaning parts Lubricating maintenance	Defoamers; perfluoroalkyl: fluorochemicals
Motor Pool	Descaling/cleaning parts Lubricating maintenance	Defoamers; perfluoroalkyl: fluorochemicals
Aircraft Maintenance Hangar	Descaling/cleaning parts Lubricating maintenance	Defoamers; perfluoroalkyl: fluorochemicals
Non-Destructive Inspection (may include maintenance shops such as survival inspection shop, munitions and maintenance shop, where applicable)	Descaling/cleaning parts Applying repellents and surfactants	Defoamers; fluorotelomer
Corrosion Control Body Shop	Descaling/cleaning parts	Defoamers; perfluoroalkyl: fluorochemicals
Paint stations/booths (automotive and airplane)	Descaling/cleaning parts Applying repellents and surfactants	Defoamers; fluorotelomer
Chrome plating	Finishing, plating, and restoring metals	Fumetrol/Mist Suppressant
Electroplating	Finishing, plating, and restoring metals	Fumetrol/Mist Suppressant
Metal plating and etching	Finishing, plating, and restoring metals	Fumetrol/Mist Suppressant
Housing/dormitory	Cleaning carpet/floors	Defoamer
Mess hall and other buildings	Cleaning carpet/floors	Defoamer
Laundry/ housing laundry/ dormitory laundry	Washing/finishing	Defoamer: water repellents
Carwash	Washing/finishing	Defoamer: water repellents
Parachute/survival equipment	Washing/finishing	Defoamer: water repellents
Housing/buildings/fuel bulk terminal and fuel dispensing with fire suppression systems (excludes AFFF)	Fire extinguishing	Defoamer: water repellents
Wastewater Treatment Plant	Collecting and treating sewage	Defoamer: PFAS containing waste
Entomology shop	Storing, mixing, applying pesticides/herbicides	PFAS polymers, fluorotelomers
Grounds/Golf Course Maintenance	Storing, mixing, applying pesticides/herbicides	PFAS polymers, fluorotelomers
Various shops (Life support shops, mess hall, housing/dormitory, etc.)	Packaging, housing maintenance, removing carpet	Fluorochemical coated packaging and carpets

Project objectives include researching historical records such as environmental reports and interviewing former base personnel with knowledge about base operations, to determine what former shops and processes possibly used products containing PFAS chemicals. The research seeks to identify potential releases and if further investigation is needed, or if no action is necessary.

PFAS are gaining interest as an emerging contaminant because of their historical and wide use in residential, commercial and industrial applications, and for their potential impacts to human health and the environment. PFAS are a group of synthetic chemicals used in nonstick cookware, stain-resistant fabric and carpet, cleaning agents, firefighting foam and many other uses.

To date, over 13 documents have been evaluated and one interview was completed as this project is getting underway. Over 1,134 known former shops/locations at McClellan will be assessed for this effort. Project reports are estimated to be completed by February 2025.

If you have knowledge of former shops and processes at McClellan that may have used products with PFAS chemicals, other than in AFFF firefighting foam—please contact Steve Mayer, Base Environmental Coordinator at McClellan by email: steven.mayer@us.af.mil

Environmental Action **UPDATE** Newsletter



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Air Force Civil Engineer Center
BRAC Program
3237 Peacekeeper Way, Suite 205
McClellan, CA 95652-2615

Learn more about McClellan AFB online at: <https://www.afcec.af.mil/Home/BRAC/McClellan-afb/McClellan/>

Please send us an email at AFCEC.CIB.WREC@us.af.mil to update your email and/or U.S. mailing address, or to be removed from the mailing list.

Volunteer for Community Creek Cleanup at McClellan on April 27th – Also see the New Ground Water Treatment Plant

Join us for a volunteer community creek cleanup event at McClellan Park on Saturday, April 27th. Help clean surrounding creeks at the former base by removing trash and debris to maintain creek health. “This is a great opportunity for the McClellan community to come out and volunteer, especially for Earth Day,” said Steve Mayer, McClellan BRAC Environmental Coordinator. “Helping to keep our creeks in good shape helps the overall health of the natural surroundings at McClellan. We appreciate your time and effort at this community event.”

The event starts at 8:30 AM for a safety briefing and creek area assignments. Volunteers will start at their assigned creek at 9:00 AM and conclude at 12:00 PM. Afterwards, volunteers can enjoy a free barbecue lunch at the staging area near the newly constructed Ground Water Treatment Plant, where the McClellan cleanup team will share insights about the operation of the new plant and ongoing cleanup efforts.

Please contact Air Force BRAC program public affairs support contractor, Dante Gulle, at danteg@ageiss-inc.com to register yourself or group for this volunteer event.



Volunteers at the 2020 McClellan Creek Cleanup event helped to clear debris and remove trash. Thanks to their efforts, more than 40 jumbo trash bags were filled and numerous large items were collected for removal at this event. We hope to see you at the next creek cleanup on April 27th!