



The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update



February 2009

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Air Force awards contract to complete environmental work at Chanute

On December 12, 2008, AFRPA announced the award of a \$38.7 million dollar contract to Knoxville, TN-based Shaw Environmental, Inc. for remediation work at the former Chanute AFB in Rantoul, IL. The performance-based contract will end September 2016.

The contract marks a significant environmental cleanup milestone at Chanute. The fixed-price contract contains performance and schedule milestones backed by an environmental insurance policy that will motivate the contractor to control costs and complete the project on time. With this PBC, AFRPA is one step closer towards completing the remaining environmental cleanup work and property transfer at the former base.

Since Chanute's closure in 1993, AFRPA has worked closely with both the Illinois and U.S. EPA to prepare former base property for transfer— identifying environmental sites, determining the extent of contamination, and conducting clean-up actions. To date, the Air Force has transferred 1,551 of 2,174 acres to the Village of Rantoul and private developers.

There are a total of 81 environmental sites at the former base—34 of which have been closed or are pending closure. Projections indicate 39 of the 47 remaining sites require environmental cleanup, including a former landfill, a firefighting training area, a skeet range, several coal storage areas, and multiple contaminated soil and groundwater sites. Much of the remaining work will be "dig-and-haul" projects where contaminated soil is excavated, disposed in an approved off-site landfill, then backfilled with clean soil.

In addition to working closely with regulatory agencies, AFRPA also coordinates with the Village of Rantoul to promote productive reuse of the transferred property. In the last two years, the Air Force has transferred 900 acres to the Village, paving the way for airfield improvements and the transfer of Heritage Lake. AFRPA is also working with the Village on its planned application for an Economic Development Conveyance (EDC) for much of the remaining property. Under an EDC, the Village can use proceeds from the property towards redevelopment efforts at Chanute, further enhancing reuse opportunities for the community.

"The award of the performance based contract shows the Air Force's commitment to getting the former base cleaned up. The contract will allow the cleanup to move forward so the property can be transferred to the local community."

**- Christopher Hill
Illinois EPA, Project Manager**

Performance Based Contracts

What is a PBC?

Performance based contracts are contracts that focus on specific goals of the environmental cleanup rather than the manner in which the work is performed.

What are the benefits?

- Minimal government oversight
- Innovative technologies of private contractors
- Accelerated cleanup process with quality results
- Decreased cost

Where are PBCs used?

The Air Force currently uses PBCs at many former and active bases throughout the U.S. Other federal agencies using PBCs include the Army, Navy, and Marines.

"Cleanup delays were a principal reason for EPA to propose Chanute for the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) in 2000," said Owen Thompson of the U.S. EPA Region 5. "The award of the new contract to complete the cleanup is a major step forward and we look forward to working together with Air Force and Illinois EPA to ensure that the job is done promptly and done right."

Recent environmental remediation activities at Chanute include the removal of more than 6,000 linear feet of steam pipes insulated with deteriorated asbestos-containing material (ACM) in the southeast portion of the base as well as a project to backfill the Northern Excavation Area (NEA) site near Heritage Lake, restoring the area to its preexisting condition.

Cleanup work under the newly-awarded PBC can include the remediation of numerous contaminated soil and groundwater sites and the capping of a former base landfill. Although remedy selections

have not been made, contaminated groundwater could be treated using various methods including injections designed to break down contaminants by biological or chemical degradation, and phytoremediation, a process using plants to clean up contaminated groundwater. Monitoring will continue to ensure the remediation is effective and contamination is not spreading.

"By the end of this contract, the Air Force hopes to achieve its goal of closing many of the remaining sites at Chanute using some very innovative and aggressive environmental remediation techniques," said Paul Carroll, Air Force BRAC Environmental Coordinator. "Of course some sites, such as the landfills, may require monitoring beyond the contract's period of performance (POP), as well as land use controls to protect against exposure. But no matter how long it takes, the Air Force is committed to protecting human health and the environment at the former Chanute AFB."

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February 19 Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

Join us at the next RAB Meeting!

February 19, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.
Rantoul Business Center (Former Smith Hall)
601 S. Century Blvd., Suite 1106

Contact Information

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Feedback, Comments, and More Information

- I would like more information about the environmental cleanup of the former Chanute Air Force Base.
- I would like more information about the Restoration Advisory Board for the former Chanute Air Force Base.

Please let us know how we are doing. Your comments and opinions are welcome and assist the Air Force in providing the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding the cleanup of the former Chanute Air Force Base. Fill out this form and send it to the address listed below.

Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms.) _____

Organization _____

Street address _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Additional Comments _____

Detach and mail this section in a stamped envelope to: AFRPA/Public Affairs, 143 Billy Mitchell Blvd., Suite 1, San Antonio, TX 78226-1816