



The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update



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AIR FORCE CONDUCTS FIRST FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF CLEANUP

Preliminary results of the Air Force's first five-year review indicate that the environmental cleanup programs in place at former Chanute Air Force Base are protective of human health and the environment. The Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA) is responsible for performing environmental investigation and cleanup at Chanute to ensure that the property is suitable for transfer for civilian use.

Paul Carroll, AFRPA environmental coordinator, explained that the five-year review is like an audit. "Basically, we look back on the systems that are in place to ensure that they are continuing to provide protection and that they are doing what they were designed to do," Carroll said.

A five-year review must answer the following questions for each cleanup remedy in place:

- Is the cleanup functioning as intended?
- Are the assumptions and cleanup objectives still valid?



Water Tower Facility 968 is one of six "Group 1" sites closed and now available for transfer and redevelopment.

- Has any new information come to light which may change the cleanup strategy?

The review also identifies pending actions, possible future issues, and recommendations. At Chanute, the review focused on three sites: Landfill 1 (LF016), Landfill 2 (LF017), and Landfill 3 (LF018), where cleanup has been implemented.

The review also documents the closure of 24 sites for which No Further Action is required, and 35 additional sites for which cleanup actions have not yet been determined. These sites were not evaluated since the final remedies have not been implemented.

Once completed, the five-year review is approved and signed by the Air Force and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The five-year review document will be available for public review once it is revised to incorporate regulatory comments. Estimated completion date is April 2011.

SIX "GROUP 1" SITES CLOSED WITH NO FURTHER ACTION

On January 6, 2011, the Air Force and Illinois EPA completed a No Further Action Record of Decision (ROD) for six "Group 1" sites. This is the second ROD finalized under the ongoing Performance-Based Contract (PBC) and documents the first sites under the Chanute PBC to achieve closure.

All sites were closed with no further action (NFA) required. Based on environmental site investigations, it was determined that the sites do not pose a risk to human health and the environment. Future land use for these sites is designated as aviation, aviation support/industrial, or educational. This property is now available for transfer and redevelopment.

The Chanute PBC is one of many the Air Force currently uses at former and active bases throughout the U.S. PBCs are contracts that focus on specific goals of environmental cleanup rather than the manner in which the work is performed. This encourages contractors to utilize innovative technologies to accelerate the cleanup process and decrease costs.

GET INVOLVED

The Air Force works closely with the local community and regulatory agencies to expedite the environmental cleanup and transfer of property at former Chanute AFB for redevelopment. Interested community members are invited to attend Chanute Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings and learn more about the environmental cleanup program.

The 2011 Chanute RAB meetings are scheduled for February 17, May 19, August 18, and November 17 at 12:00 p.m. and are held at the Rantoul Business Center, 601 S. Century Blvd., Suite 1106. The Chanute RAB is comprised of individuals who live, work, and/or own property affected by the Chanute environmental cleanup program.