



The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update



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CONSTRUCTION STARTED ON LANDFILL 4 PROTECTIVE CAP

In March 2011, the Air Force's Performance-Based Remediation contractor, Shaw Environmental, began construction of a 16-acre protective cap for Landfill 4 located in the southeast quadrant of the former Chanute Air Force Base. The multi-layer geosynthetic protective cap will prevent the infiltration of rainwater through the landfill contents and reduce the potential for migration of leachate. The Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA) and the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE) are responsible for the environmental cleanup at Chanute.

"Construction of the Landfill 4 cap will complete the Interim Record of Decision signed in 2000 for closure of the four landfills operated at Chanute from 1930 to 1975," said Paul Carroll, AFRPA's BRAC Environmental Coordinator. "Although long overdue, it is good to see the final landfill capped as we make tangible progress with cleanups throughout the former base."

The landfill cap installation includes consolidation of the waste at the landfill into a smaller footprint and construction of a RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act)-compliant landfill cover. The multi-layer soil and geosynthetic cover will consist of layers of clay, soil, and synthetic liner materials to protect people and wildlife from exposure to landfill waste, eliminate rainwater from infiltrating into the landfill, and reduce leachate from migrating. Leachate is commonly defined as liquid or groundwater that has been in contact with landfill waste.

Site work began with the removal of trees and brush across the site. Shaw Environmental used modern heavy equipment to cut trees, clear the site and chip trees and brush.



Whole tree chippers mulched all trees and brush onsite eliminating burning or removal of brush from the site.

Previous monitoring wells installed on site were also decommissioned in accordance with Illinois EPA regulations.

Earthmoving operations are planned to start in late spring with approximately 10,000 truckloads of clean soil being brought in to construct the cap. The soil will be hauled from an adjacent private property that was previously used to construct Landfill 3.

"Off-road trucks will be used to haul the soil directly across farm fields to the landfill eliminating traffic and roadway damage" said Travis Wubker, the Shaw Construction Manager.

Installation of the landfill cap is expected to be completed in Fall 2011. The Air Force will provide operation, maintenance, and monitoring of the landfill for at least 30 years.

Landfill 4, the last of four landfills operated at former Chanute AFB, accepted waste generated on the Base from 1970 to 1974. Based on historical data, Landfill 4 received garbage, refuse, medical waste, shop residues, and construction/demolition debris. The waste was buried 8 to 10 feet deep in trenches. The landfill was covered with a soil layer in 1975 and has been inactive since that time.



Installation of a 16-acre protective cap is underway for Landfill 4, the last of four landfills operated at former Chanute AFB.