



The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update

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Chanute cleanup looks to the future

The Air Force is making great strides toward property transfer at Chanute. In March, the Air Force Civil Engineer Center is looking to transfer 53 acres via a Federal Aviation Administration-sponsored Public Benefit Conveyance to the Village of Rantoul. PBCs are used as a method to transfer extra government property to state and local governments and certain nonprofit organizations for a specific public purpose, such as schools, parks and airports. All 53 acres are associated with the Rantoul National Aviation Center / Frank Elliott Field.

AFCEC is also working to transfer an additional 188 acres to the village via an Economic Development Conveyance. Unlike a PBC, an EDC does not require a specific purpose for the property transfer but is intended for the general purpose of generating jobs. The Village of Rantoul has not identified specific development plans for the property although they continue to evaluate options. The majority of the property is located west of Century Boulevard, between Flessner Avenue and Wheat Avenue. Other large tracts are located south of Veteran's Parkway, and Cook Street between Waters Drive and Textron Drive, and east of Heritage Lake, south of Titan Street.

Achieved milestones

As part of the Air Force's Accelerated Site Completion initiative, the contractor achieved closure of all 11 Above Ground Storage Tanks that comprise Group 13 in December 2012. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency governed the regulations for the tanks since they contained petroleum-related materials.

To reach closure, AFCEC's contractor conducted records review, planning and soil sampling before removing and disposing of surplus ASTs and reporting the results to the Air Force and Illinois EPA.

The Village of Rantoul and the golf course are among those that want to continue to use the few tanks left in place. AFCEC will work with these users to ensure they are aware of their obligations and future liability before determining whether or not the tanks will remain in place. Once a decision has been made, AFCEC's contractor will formally document the agreement in writing.

In addition to property transfer, AFCEC is working to transfer utilities including electric, water and wastewater systems to the village which is scheduled to take place in the spring.

From an environmental standpoint, AFCEC is currently in the process of developing a Record of Decision calling for No Further Action at Salt Fork Creek. The plan is for this ROD to be under regulatory review by March. The last Proposed Plan and ROD for sites at Chanute are scheduled to take place this spring.

As the Air Force nears completion of environmental work at Chanute, there will be fewer updates to provide on the status of cleanup. As a result, AFCEC will work with the Restoration Advisory Board to identify ways to effectively communicate progress to the community.

During the November 2012 RAB meeting, members voted not to hold a meeting in February. Future outreach materials, frequency of RAB meetings and more will be discussed at the next RAB meeting in May.



Examples of Above Ground Storage Tanks located at the former Chanute AFB. AFCEC achieved closure on all AST sites in December 2012.

Mapping our progress

There are 42 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act sites at the former Chanute AFB being addressed under the Performance-Based Remediation contract awarded to Shaw Environmental, Inc. in December 2008.

For those sites, CERCLA requires the completion of a Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, Proposed Plans, a Public Meeting, a Record of Decision, Remedial Designs and Remedial Actions, all of which culminate with Response Complete or Site Closure. The below chart indicates the status of cleanup today.

Although the chart shows no progress has been made

since the last Restoration Advisory Meeting in November 2012, this is actually good news. It means the Chanute program is transitioning from the cleanup phase into the operation and maintenance phase. Currently only the Proposed Plans, Public Meetings, and Records of Decision remain for the four landfill sites. Once these actions are complete this spring, AFCEC and Shaw will continue to monitor the sites while groundwater cleanup continues. All active sites are on track to achieve completion by September 2017.

Of the 42 CERCLA sites, eight did not require feasibility studies, and 11 did not require remedial designs or remedial actions as noted in the ROD for each site.

