



# The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update

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## Partnership continues to yield results

The Performance-Based Remediation contract is progressing as planned at the former Chanute Air Force Base. Since the Air Force awarded the contract to Shaw Environmental in December 2008, the Air Force's contractor has installed remedies in place for all sites at the former base, meaning the approved environmental actions are in place and operating as intended.

"In four years, the Air Force has been able to make significant progress toward the cleanup and transfer of Chanute back to the Rantoul community as a result of our partnership with private industry," said Paul Carroll, Base Environmental Coordinator at Chanute at the Air Force Civil Engineer Center. "Through this PBR contract, we have expedited cleanup at Chanute by several years and will achieve unrestricted closure at many more sites than originally projected."

In addition to implementing remedies, the contractor has also closed 13 sites at Chanute. To achieve site closure, the Air Force must demonstrate that all goals specified in the Records of

Decision have been met; all necessary reports are complete and the sites are protective of human health and the environment. Upon site closure, environmental cleanup actions are complete and there are no restrictions on future land use.

The goal is for all open sites to achieve site closure when possible. If the contractor cannot clean the sites to unrestricted use, land use controls will be put in place to achieve regulatory closure. The only sites projected to have LUCs in place are the former Skeet Range (completed in 2011) located at the west end of the east/west runway; the former fire training area near Heritage Lake and the landfill sites located in the southeast portion of the former base.

Although AFCEC has achieved important milestones at Chanute, active groundwater treatment will continue until cleanup is completed. There

are still some challenges remaining. Fire Training Area 2, Building 995 and the Laundromat contain chemicals in the groundwater that have proven difficult to break down through traditional cleanup methods. Going forward, the contractor will re-inject solutions into the groundwater to help expedite cleanup.

Before the end of the year, the Air Force hopes to achieve an additional 12 site closures and complete the transfer of approximately 240 acres of property to the Village of Rantoul.



*Fire Training Area 2 is an example of the impactful cleanup work going on at the former Chanute AFB. The photo on the left shows rainwater collecting as a result of a previously unfinished cleanup started in the 1990s. The photo on the right shows the site restored to its original condition thanks to AFCEC's PBR contract.*

## Air Force contractor acquired

The Air Force's PBR contractor at Chanute, Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc., has been acquired by CB&I, a firm specializing in engineering, procurement and construction with an administrative headquarters in The Woodlands, Texas. Shareholders from both companies approved the \$3 billion acquisition in December, and the transaction was finalized in February.

"The acquisition of Shaw by CB&I will not affect ongoing remedial activities at the former Chanute AFB. Our

plans to complete the environmental restoration by Sept 2016 at Chanute remain on schedule," says CB&I Project Manager Howard Sparrow.

In addition to Chanute, the firm also provides PBR contract support at the former England AFB, Lou., George AFB, Calif., Kelly AFB, Texas, Loring AFB, Maine, Myrtle Beach AFB, S.C. and Pease AFB, N.H. CB&I's acquisition of Shaw will not affect the cleanup progress at any of the installations.

## Mapping our progress

AFCEC will host a public meeting May 16 to allow the public to provide input on a Proposed Plan for four landfill sites. Upon completion of this meeting, AFCEC will have completed all Proposed Plans and Public Meetings for the 42 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act sites at the former Chanute AFB. With the completion of these major milestones, the Air Force can press forward with implementing its last two Records of Decision for Salt Fork Creek and Landfills 1-4.

