



The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update

Published to keep the Rantoul, Ill., community informed of the Air Force's cleanup progress | Aug 2013

Public website provides current information

As the Air Force continues to advance through the environmental cleanup process at the former Chanute Air Force Base, the Air Force Civil Engineer Center will continue to maintain and update all information pertaining to the cleanup effort on the Chanute index page of the AFCEC website.

"It's our intention to expand our use of the website to provide the Rantoul community and other interested parties with the most up to date information we have to offer," said Paul Carroll, Base Environmental Coordinator at Chanute. "Our goal is to provide a one-stop-shop for information, that way the answers to most questions are available and easily accessible twenty four-seven."

Much progress has been made since the Air Force first completed the investigation phase and began the Chanute cleanup in 2009. All necessary cleanup actions have been implemented and

very few cleanup decisions remain. As a result, there will be fewer updates to provide on the cleanup status.

"Involvement with the Restoration Advisory Board began winding down after the last remedy was put in place last year and will decrease further once the last Records of Decision are finalized this fall," said Carroll. "However, that doesn't mean we just stop providing information."

The objective, Carroll says, is to maintain a repository of information that extends the entirety of the Chanute cleanup.

"There are extensive materials available online at the AFCEC website, from our CERCLA mandated administrative record and RAB notes from previous meetings, to press releases and fact sheets. We want our knowledge of the cleanup to be easily accessible."

Although the website is there, it's important to know that there's still a division of AFCEC that is available to answer questions and address concerns, said Carroll.

"We get a lot of the same questions and requests for the same information, the website helps eliminate the middle man and offers instant access to a lot of material," he said. "But that doesn't mean that we stop answering phones, responding to emails and addressing concerns; we're still here and we're still available."

To access the Chanute information page on the AFCEC website, visit: <http://www.afcec.af.mil/brac/chanute/index.asp>. For additional assistance you can also contact AFCEC Public Affairs at 1-866-725-7617 or afcec.pa@us.af.mil.

Milestones

1. Group 12 ROD Nearly Signed: The Air Force and Illinois EPA are working to complete a No Further Action ROD for Salt Fork Creek (SD032). This is the next-to-last ROD required for the former installation. The final ROD for Landfills 1-4 (LF016, LF017, LF018, and LF019) is currently being prepared. The future land use in the southwestern and eastern portions of Salt Fork Creek is aviation support/industrial, and the central portion of the creek is planned for recreational and educational uses. However, based on environmental site investigations, it was determined that Salt Fork Creek does not pose a risk to human health and the environment and the creek is suitable for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure.

2. Chanute ET Buffers: AFCEC's contractor, Shaw Environmental (a CB&I Company), installed additional evapotranspiration buffers at Landfills 2 and 4 following their success in containing and treating leachate at Landfill 3. Evapotranspiration is a process by which a plant's roots absorb soil moisture to prevent it from migrating away from landfills. Shaw completed installation in May.

3. Additional work planned for two sites: At Skeet Range 1, Near Building 805 (SS064) additional excavation is required to remove lead and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon-contaminated soils to achieve unrestricted use/unrestricted ex-

posure site closure. The September 2010 ROD concluded removal of only lead-impacted soils was required to remediate the site to the designated land use (aviation support/industrial). The required cleanup was completed in 2012. Site SS064 was subsequently identified as a site for additional action in accordance with the Accelerated Site Completion initiative. Under the ASC program the Air Force is conducting additional cleanup at select sites in order to allow unlimited use and unrestricted exposure (UU/UE). Up to six areas identified in the feasibility study require soil excavation in order to achieve UU/UE closure. At Water Tower, Facility 968 (SS040) additional sampling and excavation is required to remove lead-contaminated soil from beneath the water tower. The Air Force demolished the tower in 2012 in accordance with a May 2011 Memorandum of Agreement with the Village of Rantoul. The January 2011 ROD concluded no action was required and site SS040 was closed to UU/UE; however, pre- and post-demolition soil samples identified lead contamination in soil believed to be the result of continued flaking of lead based paint from the tower that occurred after remedial investigation sampling activities were completed in 2003 and prior to tower demolition activities. As a result, the condition of the site is not consistent with ROD requirements. The Air Force will prepare a Proposed Plan amendment and ROD amendment before beginning the additional cleanup.

Mapping our progress

Progress continues on the 42 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act sites at the former Chanute AFB. CERCLA requires the completion of a Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, Proposed Plans, a Public Meeting, a ROD, Remedial Designs and Remedial Actions, all of which culminate with response complete or site closure. With the completion of the ROD for Salt Fork Creek, AFCEC has completed RODs for 38 of the 42 CERCLA sites at the former Chanute AFB. With the completion of this latest milestone, the Air Force can press forward with implementing its last ROD for Landfills 1-4. Of the 42 CERCLA sites, eight did not require Feasibility Studies, and 10 did not require Remedial Designs or Remedial Actions as noted in the ROD for each site.

