



# The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update

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

## Air Force Taking Extra Step on Former Skeet Range Cleanup

Additional excavation is currently underway at Skeet Range 1, near Building 805 (SS064) to remove lead and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contaminated soils to achieve unrestricted site closure. The lead is from lead shot used in skeet shooting and the PAHs are from the clay targets. During the excavation and backfilling activities, residents may encounter additional traffic from the large trucks used to haul the contaminated soil away and bring in the clean soil used for backfill.

Numerous precautions will be taken to control the use of equipment and traffic to ensure public and worker safety. The September 2010 Record Of Decision (ROD) concluded removal of only lead-impacted soils was required to remedi-

ate the site to the designated land use (aviation support/industrial). The required cleanup was completed in 2012.

The additional cleanup to achieve unrestricted closure was implemented under the Air Force's Accelerated Site Completion initiative. The ASC initiative is part of the Air Force's aggressive approach to maximize the number of environmental sites achieving unrestricted closure. Site SS064 is one of 12 sites at the former Chanute AFB identified for additional work. Cleanup at the other sites was completed earlier in



*Excavation continues at Skeet Range 1*

2013. With completion of the additional work at site SS064, all affected property is suitable for "unrestricted use," meaning there will be no land use controls or redevelopment restrictions on the land.

**What is site closure?** Site closure is achieved when all necessary cleanup is complete at a site and there are no restrictions on future use of the property (i.e., the property is suitable for residential use). To achieve site closure, the Air Force must prepare a report documenting that the cleanup has been completed in accordance with the applicable Record of Decision. Only after this report is reviewed and approved by the regulators (i.e., Illinois EPA) is site closure achieved.

## Milestones

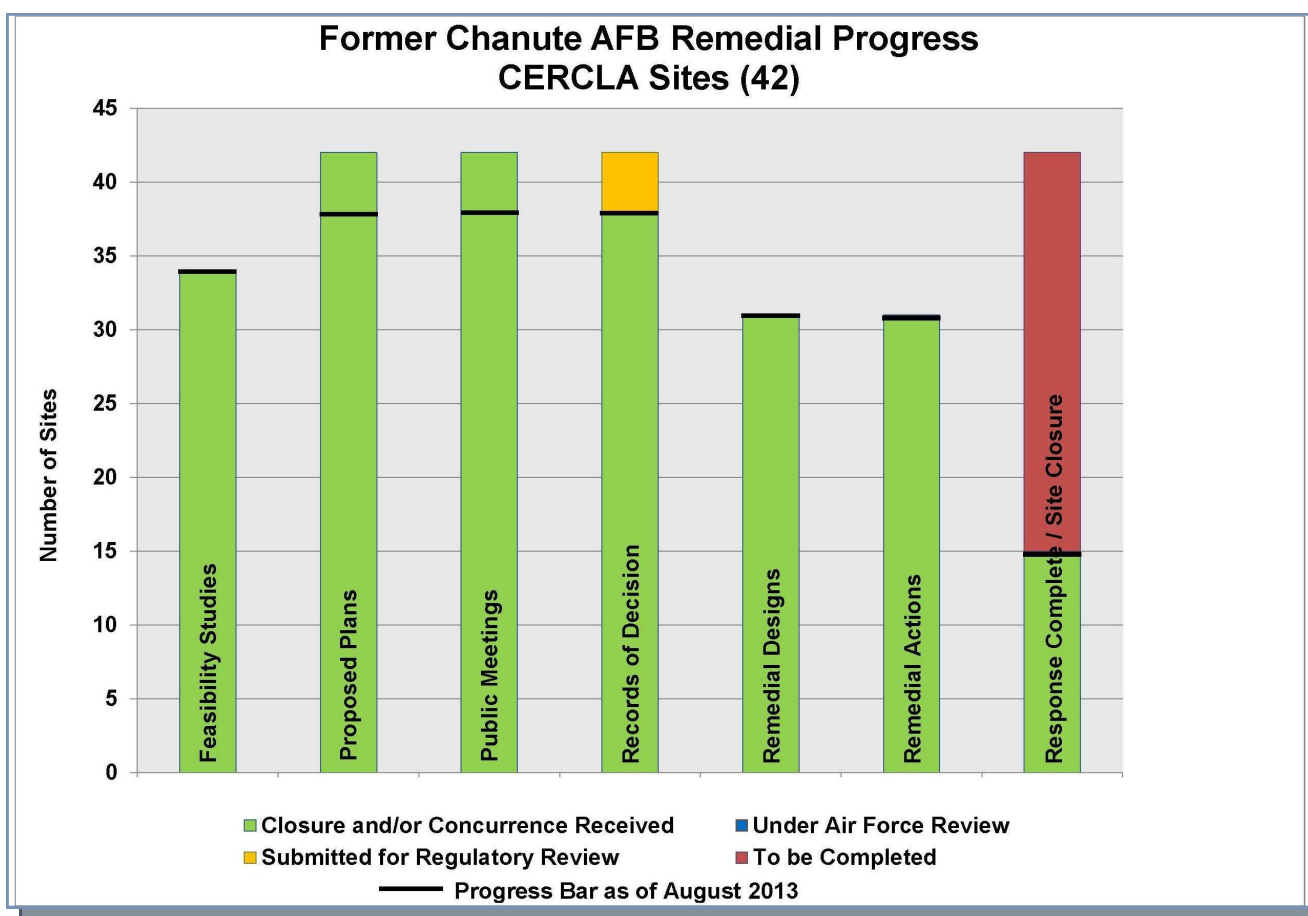
**1. Proposed Plan Amendment and ROD Amendment for Water Tower, Facility 968 (SS040):** A public meeting was held October 16, 2013 to present the Proposed Plan Amendment and solicit public comment on the Air Force's plans to conduct cleanup at site SS040. The Air Force demolished the water tower in 2012 in accordance with a May 2011 Memorandum of Agreement with the Village of Rantoul; 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 the no further action decision for site SS040 identified in the January 2011 ROD. The Air Force plans to excavate lead-contaminated soils from the area beneath the former water tower. The contaminated soils will be disposed offsite and clean soil brought in to backfill the site and restore it to match the surrounding area. No significant comments were received during the public comment period, which closed

October 25, 2013. The Air Force is currently preparing a ROD Amendment and work plan to conduct the cleanup. Pending signature of the ROD Amendment and approval of the work plan, the cleanup is projected to be completed in the spring.

**2. The ROD for Salt Fork Creek completed and signed by the Air Force and Illinois EPA on August 15, 2013:** No remedial action was required at Salt Fork Creek and no long-term controls are warranted. The site is eligible for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure; however, future residential land use is unlikely given its location.

**3. Landfills ROD:** The Air Force is moving forward with preparing the last ROD required for Chanute. The ROD will address requirements for the four Landfills located in the southeast portion of the former base. Preparation of the ROD is on track for submission for Illinois EPA review in November 2013 followed by signature by the Air Force and Illinois EPA in December/January 2014.

## Mapping Our Progress



Progress continues on the 42 CERCLA 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. AFCEC has completed RODs

for 38 of the 42 CERCLA sites at the former Chanute AFB. The last ROD, which includes Landfills 1-4 is on track for completion and signature by the end of 2013. 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.

**How are we doing?:** Please take a moment to let us know how effective our communications efforts are by taking a brief survey using the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CMCJX5C>.

You can also mail us your comments using the form on the back of this newsletter or contact AFCEC Public Affairs at [AFCEC.PA@us.af.mil](mailto:AFCEC.PA@us.af.mil) (subject line: Chanute Communications Effectiveness), or by dialing 1-866-725-7617.

An electronic copy of this and all past newsletters can be found on the Former Chanute AFB website at <http://www.afcec.af.mil/brac/chanute/index.asp>

## OPS reports underway to support property transfer of 20 sites

The Air Force and Shaw Environmental, with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency coordination, will be developing Operating Properly and Successfully demonstration reports in the coming months for 20 groundwater cleanup sites at the former Chanute Air Force Base. The OPS demonstration reports must also be approved by US Environmental Protection Agency Region 5. A successful OPS demonstration is the key milestone that must be achieved to allow deed transfer of federally owned property to a non-Federal recipient prior to achieving cleanup goals.

The phrase “operating properly and successfully” involves two separate concepts. A remedial action is operating “properly” if it is operating as designed. That same system is operating “successfully” if its operation will achieve the cleanup levels or performance goals delineated in the Record of Decision. Additionally, in order to be “successful,” that remedy must be protective of human health and the environment. Thus, U.S. EPA interprets



*Groundwater cleanup is well underway at the former Chanute AFB.*

the term “operating properly and successfully” to mean that the remedial action is functioning in such a manner that it is expected to adequately protect human health and the environment when completed.

Initially, 34 of the 42 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act sites at the former Chanute required groundwater cleanup with some requiring soil cleanup as well. Of the 34 sites, 14 are on track for closure in early 2014 and will not require OPS. The remaining 20 ground water sites will require OPS

demonstrations to support property transfer.

The OPS demonstration reports, pending US EPA approval, will pave the way for transfer of all remaining property in time for Whole Base Transfer by the end of fiscal year 2014.

## EDC agreement on track for final acceptance

The Economic Development Conveyance agreement between the Air Force and Village of Rantoul is in final review and on track for final acceptance and signature by the Village and Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Installations, Environment and Logistics) in November/December. This will clear the way for transfer of approximately 180 acres and the remaining utility systems.

The Village requested transfer of approximately 400 acres of property now owned by the Air Force by way of an EDC. This conveyance is part of the Air Force’s effort to transfer the remaining 591+/- acres of land and facilities at Chanute, a process that began in the early 1990’s.

Approximately 591 of the original 2,174 acres at Chanute are still awaiting transfer. The Air Force has recommended that this property along with the base utility systems be conveyed to the Village using a combination of Public Benefit Conveyance, EDC, and negotiated sale methods.

The property in the EDC includes a total of 44 separate parcels scattered throughout the former base property. These include a cluster of 13 parcels located in the south-east quadrant of the base totaling over 250 acres, another cluster of 15 parcels on the western side totaling 102 acres, and a third cluster of 15 parcels on the northern side of the base totaling approximately 40 acres. In addition, the EDC includes the remaining base utilities (water, wastewater, storm water and electric, including easements and rights-of-way). Nearly all of the parcels were originally part of a planned airport PBC sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration as they became available pending environmental clean-up, based on the original 1990 reuse plan for Chanute. However, the subsequent reduction in the role and requirements for the airfield at the base resulted in the decision to include them in this EDC. The village submitted a release request to FAA for a portion of the original PBC which received approval in June.

AFCEC/Public Affairs  
2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 155  
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## Nov 21 Chanute Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

**RAB Meeting: 12 p.m.**

**Location:**

Rantoul Business Center (Former Smith Hall)  
601 S. Century Blvd., Suite 1106

**Air Force Civil Engineer Center**  
**2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 155**  
**JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853**  
**Toll Free (866) 725-7617**  
**[www.AFCEC.AF.mil](http://www.AFCEC.AF.mil)**



## Feedback, comments, and more information

- ☐ I would like more information about the environmental cleanup of the former Chantute Air Force Base.
- ☐ I would like more information about the Restoration Advisory Board for the former Chantute Air Force Base.

Please let us know how we are doing. Your comments and opinions are welcomed and assist the Air Force in providing the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding the cleanup for the former Chanute Air Force Base. Fill out this form and send it to the address listed below.

Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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**Detach and mail this section in a stamped envelope to: AFCEC/Public Affairs, 2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 155, JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853**