



# The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update

Published to keep the Rantoul, Ill., community informed of the Air Force's cleanup progress | February 2014

## Environmental Cleanup Milestones

**1. Skeet Range Cleanup:** On Nov. 11, 2013, the Air Force's contractor Shaw Environmental completed soil excavation activities at the former skeet range (Site SS064). Shaw excavated approximately 5,564 tons of soil from six areas. All excavated soils were transported and disposed of off-site. Shaw backfilled the excavated areas with clean topsoil and matched it to the surrounding soil by leveling and lightly compacting it, before placing straw on the topsoil surface to protect the areas from runoff. The Air Force conducted this additional cleanup under its Accelerated Site Completion initiative. With this additional work now completed, Site SS064 is now clean enough to allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure (i.e., residential reuse).

**2. Steam Plant Demolition:** North Wind Services LLC continues to make progress at the former steam plant. Working with the Air Force and the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers, North Wind is finalizing the planning documents and is on track to begin demolition activities in spring 2014. Work at the plant includes removal of lead-based paint and asbestos which will be completed before the plant is demolished. North Wind will also conduct asbestos abatement and demolish 94 steam vaults across the former base and demolish above-ground concrete structures that were

part of a former wastewater treatment facility in the southeast corner of the former base. The work is scheduled to be complete by June 2015.



*AFCEC's contractor completed soil excavation activities at the former skeet range, Site SS064, in November 2013.*



*AFCEC's contractor backfilled the excavated areas at the former skeet range, Site SS064, with clean topsoil, leveled and lightly compacted to match the surrounding surface contours.*

**3. Water Tower 968 Cleanup:** Additional cleanup is planned for the soils where Water Tower 968 (Site SS040) once stood. The Air Force Civil Engineer Center demolished the water tower in 2012; however, pre- and post-demolition soil samples identified lead contamination 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 Record of Decision. 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, restoring it to match the surrounding area. AFCEC and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency are finalizing an ROD amendment and work plan to conduct the cleanup. The cleanup is projected to be completed in the spring.

*(Milestones continued on page 2)*

### **Please note!**

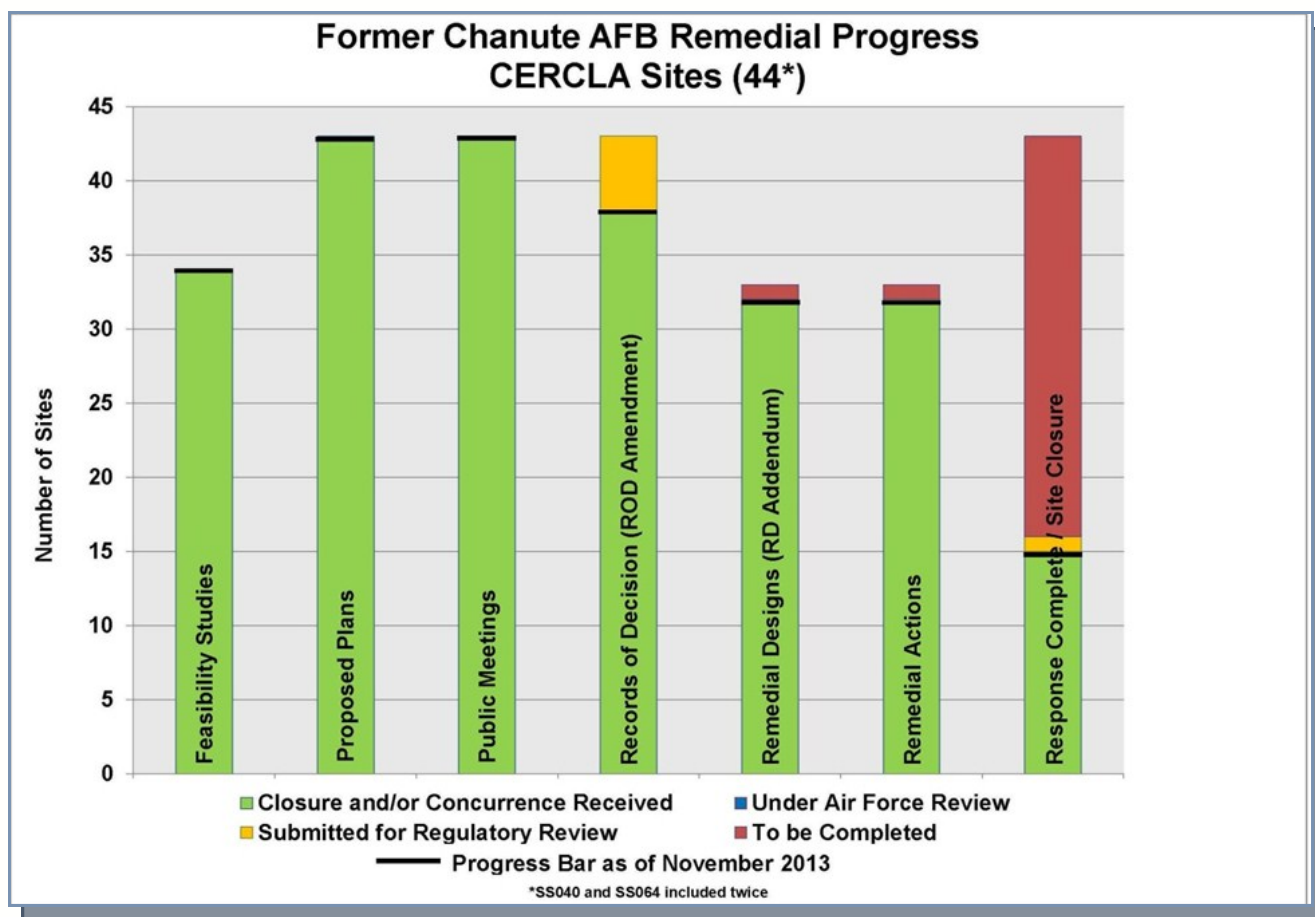
The AFCEC Administrative Record web address will change **March 2014**. Please remember to bookmark <http://afcec.publicadmin-record.us.af.mil/> for future access to all Chanute Administrative Records.

In the meantime, the public can access the Chanute AR site via <http://www.afcec.af.mil/brac/chanute/index.asp> and click on the Chanute Administrative Record Link.

**4. Landfills ROD:** AFCEC and the Illinois EPA are on track to finalize and sign the final ROD for the four Chanute landfills (Sites LF016, LF017, LF018, and LF019) by March. The landfills have permanent landfill caps as required by the Interim Record of Decision for Operable Unit 2 Landfills 1-4 approved in 2000. The interim ROD also specified interim controls to restrict site access and conduct operation, maintenance, and monitoring or OM&M. The Final ROD outlines the final remedies, including post-closure care requirements. As documented in the final ROD, AFCEC must continue to restrict site access and conduct operations maintenance and management activities as well as implement and maintain post-closure care requirements at

the four landfills in accordance with federal and state regulations for closed landfills. In addition, AFCEC must implement and maintain institutional controls for each of the landfills including a small area adjacent to Landfill 1 (LF016). **5. No Further Remediation and NFA Sites:** Over the past few months, AFCEC received site closure approval from the Illinois EPA for four former tank sites. Sites that received closure approval include Bldg. 700 Underground Storage Tanks (ST010), Bldg. 747 UST (ST011), Bldg. 950 Oil Spill (SS023) and Bldg. 950 Tank Bottoms Disposal Pit (DP039). All four sites were closed to levels that allow unlimited use and unrestricted exposure.

## Mapping Our Progress



Progress continues on the 42 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act sites at the former Chanute Air Force Base. CERCLA requires the completion of a Remedial Investigation, Proposed Plans, a Public Meeting, a Record Of Decision (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 Cha-

nute AFB. The last ROD, which includes Landfills 1-4 is on track for completion and signature by March. As noted previously, AFCEC is also working on an ROD amendment for Site SS040. 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.

## RAB meeting frequency reduced from quarterly to semiannually

With the bulk of the environmental cleanup work complete, RAB members agreed that the Chanute RAB meetings should be reduced from quarterly to semiannually. This new schedule will reduce your RAB members' commitment to meeting with the Air Force so frequently, while maintaining open lines of communication and ensuring important progress updates are provided on a semi-annual basis.

Although the RAB meeting frequency has been reduced, the Air Force's commitment to providing timely updates will not stop. We will continue to provide quarterly updates via our newsletter and on our website at: <http://www.afcec.af.mil/brac/chanute/index.asp>.

You can also reach out to RAB members with any questions you might have regarding the progress of our cleanup efforts at the former Chanute AFB. Our next RAB meeting will be held May 15, 2014, from noon to 1 p.m. at the Rantoul Business Center Main Conference Room, 601 South Century Boulevard, Rantoul, Illinois 61866.

## TAPP contractor available to address Restoration Advisory Board member concerns

Dr. Nicholas (Nick) Schneider of RAPPS Engineering and Applied Science, Inc. is the Chanute Technical Assistance for Public Participation contractor. Dr. Schneider is a resource for all RAB members and provides an independent voice in the environmental cleanup process. His role is to simplify complex environmental documents to help ensure that RAB and other community members understand the status of cleanup efforts around the former base.

Dr. Schneider offers knowledge of:

- Air Force base past operations and cleanup processes
- Environmental Remediation using the CERCLA process, including Risk Assessments
- Federal, Illinois, and local environmental regulations, rules and directives
- Innovative remediation processes and related successes and failures

Dr. Schneider is available at most RAB meetings. He is also available outside of this formal meeting time, both individually and as a group and with or without the Air Force present. Members of the community are encouraged to reach out to RAB members who can access Dr. Schneider for any information regarding the Chanute environmental cleanup efforts.

## How are we doing?

We are always interested in learning how we can best communicate our clean up progress with our RAB members. If you have a suggestion, we want to know about it and will do everything we can to accommodate.

We announced our online communications survey during the November RAB and are anxiously awaiting your feedback. Please take a moment to fill out our survey so we can learn how to best accommodate your communication needs regarding environmental cleanup at Chanute.

The survey can be found at :

<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.

### ***Don't forget to bookmark the new Administrative Record site address!***

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AFCEC/Public Affairs  
2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 155  
JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853

## May 15 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 Chanute Air Force Base.
- ☐ I would like more information about the Restoration Advisory Board for the former Chanute 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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