



# CHANUTE AFB ILLINOIS

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## ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 3339



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR FORCE BASE CONVERSION AGENCY

22 January 1998

AFBCA/DA Chanute  
501 E. Condit Drive, Suite A  
Rantoul IL 61866

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The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) will hold its quarterly meeting on 5 February 1998 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rantoul Aviation Center located at 1 Aviation Center Drive Suite 101, Rantoul IL.

The proposed agenda items will consist of, but not limited to, the following:

1. RI/FS Landfills Progress and Status
  - Risk Assessment Assumptions
2. RI/FS OU-2 Seven Sites Update
  - Risk Assessment Assumptions
3. Projects Status Update
  - FTA-02
    - TCRA-Debris Removal
    - TCRA-Free Product Removal
      - Characterization
    - NTCRA-EE/CA Soils Remediation
      - Characterization
  - 932
    - NTCRA-EE/CA Soils Remediation
  - 747
    - Expanded Site Investigation
4. Remedial Actions Closing
  - 700 Area Pump and Treat
  - 952 Natural Attenuation Study
5. Update on Metal Fragments found in Parcel G across from Fire Station
6. AFBCA Process for Remedial Projects Funding and Approval
7. Remedial Action Sites -- Restricted Areas

8. Issuance of Deeds
9. Chanute's Reuse Progress
10. Open Discussion

Additional items may be listed on the agenda by sending information to Diana Herbert at this office or by phoning 217-892-3240.

Sincerely



VIRLON J. SUITS  
BRAC Environmental Coordinator

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR FORCE BASE CONVERSION AGENCY

March 25, 1998

AFBCA/DB Chanute  
501 E. Condit Drive, Suite A  
Rantoul IL 61866

SUBJECT: Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Minutes, February 5, 1998

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1. The quarterly RAB meeting for Chanute Air Force Base was held at 1 Aviation Center in the Village of Rantoul on February 5, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Virlon Suits, Site Manager/BRAC Environmental Coordinator, facilitated the meeting.
2. Mr. Suits opened the meeting with a discussion of the landfills RI/FS progress and status, and to facilitate the discussion, placed a map of the Base on the wall. He pointed out Operable Unit 2 (OU-2) and the environmental sites within OU-2 that are currently the focus of on-going Remedial Investigations (RIs). He also pointed out two sites outside of OU-2, Building 747 and Building 700 are in OU-1 that also have environmental activity. He then asked Brian Rundell, Jacobs Engineering Project Manager for the landfills RI, to describe the work that is being carried out there.

Mr. Rundell indicated they have a crew of ten people working in the area and their first activity was to clean away trees and brush so that the RI activities could proceed. A 100 foot by 100 foot grid on the landfills was then established by survey and stakes placed at those intervals. The grid is necessary in order to document XYZ locations of all field investigative work such as soil samples. Approximately 80 cone penetrometer tests (CPTs) were taken across the OU-2 area adjacent to the landfills to determine soil type, groundwater location and direction of flow, and location of sand and clay units.

Currently, a geophysical survey is being conducted on Landfill 2. This survey uses equipment that transmits electromagnetic (EM) energy into the landfills, at 10 foot grid locations, to a depth of 10 to 12 feet. Metallic objects (drums, airplane wings, etc.) and disturbed soil (such as excavations) and other objects in the landfill will reflect some of the EM energy which is captured by the equipment and used to produce a map indicating the location in the landfills of the metallic objects, disturbances, etc. In essence, the survey gives you a subsurface profile to a depth of 10 to 12 feet. Mr. Rundell displayed and explained examples of the maps produced by the EM equipment. A geophysical expert will utilize these maps to determine the most likely areas where metallic objects (such as drums) are buried. Exploratory test pits will then be dug at these locations (using a back hoe) to verify whether drums (or other containers) which may contain contaminants are actually there.

Mr. Rundell responded to several questions from the audience regarding grid spacing for the EM instrument, depth of penetration, and correlation between map coloration's and buried objects. He stated that the 10 foot grid locations was an extremely small grid spacing that enables the instrument to locate very small objects. The depth of penetration depends upon the soil type and in this area it is on the order of 12 to 15 feet. Red coloration's on the EM generated map are more likely to contain metallic objects, but depth of the object cannot be accurately determined because a small shallow metallic object may have as strong a signal as a large deep metallic object. Once exploratory trenching has begun, we can better determine which of the map colorations must be investigated. Currently the main thrust is to obtain data quickly in order to determine cost and obtain funding for environmental remediation of the landfills. To that end, there will be eight test pits per landfill located by use of the EM maps. The small number of pits per landfill means that a lot of the small red dots on the maps will not at this point in time be investigated. Soil samples will be taken at various levels in the pits and if water is encountered, a groundwater sample will be taken.

3. Mr. Suits asked Mr. Jeff Villnow, the Environmental Company Project Manager for the Seven Sites OU-2 RI, to brief on the work of that project. Mr. Villnow said we are essentially doing the same kind of work on the seven sites that is being done on the landfills. There are essentially three types of sites, (1) two fire control training areas, (2) three oil/water separators and (3) contamination at Building 975/995 and Building 932 sludge pit. At this point, the work is still in the planning process. Work plans and sampling and analysis plans have been submitted to the U.S. and Illinois EPAs for approval. Within two weeks, cone penetrometer work to define geology and pathology will begin. RI field work is scheduled to begin in May. Mr. Villnow introduced Mr. Mike Carey who is the Site Manager who will be with the field crews for the upcoming work.

Mr. Adametz asked regarding mowing and grounds work around buildings. Mr. Villnow replied there will be brush clearing activities and stakes being placed where cone penetrometer holes will be placed. Mr. Nussbaum, IEPA regulator, cautioned that the stakes are very important to the work going on and occupants in the area are asked not to remove them. Mr. Boudreaux requested that he be kept informed regarding cleanup work so that he can inform the tenants in the area. Mr. Wilkinson inquired regarding the "no trespassing" signs that were recently installed at the Fire Training Area 2 (FTA-2) burn pit area. Mr. Ehrhard, Project Engineer for Jacobs Engineering, explained that the signs were put there to warn the general public passing through the area that this is an area of environmental concern.

4. Mr. Ehrhard described the Engineering Evaluation Cost Analysis (EE/CA) projects at FTA-2 and Building 932. What is being planned for both areas is a non-time critical removal action (NTCRA) for contaminated soils. FTA-2 is an area where JP-4 fuel was sprayed on mock aircraft and set fire to train fire fighters in extinguishing fires, with resultant residual fuels contaminating the soils. Structures, mock aircraft foundations, and light poles have been taken down and removed from the area. "Free product" (actual JP-4 fuel collected within the soils) has been found in the area and a system to remove this will be designed and installed in an upcoming project. Work plans and sampling and analysis plans for the EE/CA has been submitted to the EPAs. The scope of that work is to define the extent of the contamination so that these unsaturated soils can be removed. At the request of Mr. Nussbaum, Mr. Ehrhard explained that unsaturated soils are those down to a depth of about five feet which are considered unsaturated

because they are above the water table. Any contaminants that are below the water table will be investigated by Mr. Villnow's RI and appropriate remedies designed for any contaminated groundwater. This work will begin in early March utilizing CPT and direct push technology (DPT) for collecting soil samples for laboratory analysis.

A similar study will be carried out at Building 932 with Mr. Villnow's project again investigating the groundwater. Upon request, Mr. Ehrhard pointed out, on a base map, the locations of FTA-2 and Building 932. The work plans and sampling and analysis plans are also under review by the EPAs and work is expected to begin in March.

Mr. Suits pointed out on the map the location of Building 747 where an expanded site investigation (ESI) is about to begin. Mr. Ehrhard explained that this is a preliminary investigation to determine whether a full scale investigation is warranted. There is limited information on some low levels of contaminants in the groundwater that may have related to chlorinated solvents used in Building 747. Work plans and sampling and analysis plans have been developed for this ESI and are now under review by the Air Force and after incorporation of Air Force comments will be sent for review to the EPAs. Ms. Fothergill noted there was a health and safety plan for this project and that she didn't remember one for other projects and asked if this project was worse than others. Mr. Ehrhard replied that there is a health and safety plan for every project. Mr. Boudreaux mentioned he did not remember solvents being at 747 -- only fertilizer and weed killers. Mr. Ehrhard replied that 747 had been used as a hangar for the Air Club and solvents were used for washing aircraft parts. That is the only information currently in hand and the ESI will try to locate the source area.

Mr. Ehrhard continued with a description of the Building 700 (former gasoline filling station) pump and treat system. Leaking underground storage tanks created soil and groundwater contamination. The contaminated soils have been removed. A system to pump out the groundwater and treat it has been in operation for 1 1/2 years. The latest water test results show that contamination has decreased ten-fold since August 1997. It is believed we are now within IEPA cleanup objectives, as calculated under tier two cleanup objectives. At Mr. Boudreaux's request, Mr. Nussbaum discussed IEPAs "tier two objectives." He explained that there are three tiers of cleanup numbers. "Tier one" is a table -- a sheet of numbers. If the numbers are below the table value, cleanup levels have been satisfied. "Tier two" requires calculations using equations with inputs of various parameters like kind of soil, amount of carbon in the soil, soil saturation and so on that relate to how contaminants can move from the site and possibly end up in somebody's drinking water. Tier three is a very detailed, more time consuming, more thorough investigation and calculation of potential risk. In essence, the regulations allow the property owner the choice of spending a lot of money cleaning up and very little investigating or spend a moderate amount of money investigating, then calculating and getting a little bit higher cleanup objective because of the less conservative posture. The three tiers include the use of deed restrictions and institutional controls which may prohibit use of the water for drinking water purposes. The Village already has an ordinance that prevents drilling of wells. Mr. Schafer indicated the Federal Government does not have a tier system but delegates that to the State Government. Mr. Nussbaum said Illinois is the first State to come up with the tier system.

Mr. Suits indicated that the facility 952 area was the site of a Natural Attenuation study which has shown that any contamination present there is below the IEPA cleanup levels and closure documentation was sent to the IEPA in mid-January. Mr. Nussbaum said that the petition is going to be to close it with deed restrictions under the tier objectives that nobody is going to drink the groundwater.

5. Mr. Suits passed out a handout entitled "Metal Nuggets Containing Lead on the former Chanute Air Force Base." The pamphlet contains information indicating laboratory tests show high lead concentrations in soils in the immediate vicinity of the metal chunk. The metal chunks are 46% lead and the balance a quartz like materials. A "wipe" test also indicated the lead from the chunks transfers easily -- accounting for lead concentrations in adjacent soils. The playground equipment was coated with lead based paint. The equipment was subsequently dismantled and removed from the playground December 23, 1997. Lead content in a soil sample under the swing set was very low indicating a low transfer rate of lead paint to the soils. Mr. Suits said that the vegetative cover makes the metal chunks much less accessible, which is good. Mrs. Wirges inquired whether other playground areas needed to be checked and Mr. Suits replied that most older playground equipment that would contain lead-based paint has already been replaced, but some areas may need to be checked. Mr. Nussbaum said the IEPA wants to commend the Air Force for taking quick action in removing the equipment as the IEPA had encouraged them to do.

6. Mr. Suits introduced Mr. Mike Adams, Safety Director for Jacobs Engineering. He described the need for health and safety plans in environmental work and showed the audience the various safety devices and equipment that are utilized to ensure health and safety of environmental workers. He showed the brightly colored personal protective suits that must be worn by workers when doing excavation work in landfills, such as will be done at Chanute. Among the safety instruments displayed was a gas monitoring system which is utilized to ensure safety not only for workers but for people in the surrounding areas. Other equipment displayed were hard hat, safety glasses, steel toe shoe, air purifying respirator, air mask that connects by hose to an air supply tank carried on the back and different safety levels of encapsulating suits (colors of suit designates safety level.) Suits are necessary for workers when they are working very close to the contaminants. There was also chemical resistant boots, suits and gloves. In the event that seriously alarming conditions are encountered, operations are stopped. Protective clothing is considered disposable, and when heavily soiled will be drummed and disposed of in an approved manner.

The landfill exploratory pits are dug, sampled, and then backfilled. No pits are left open overnight. Mr. Suits requested help from all in informing people living in the area as to the activities on the landfills and the purpose for all the specialized workman suits and equipment. Mr. Wilkinson asked whether it is known that particularly "nasty" stuff has been buried out there. Mr. Nussbaum asked him to expand on what he meant by "nasty" -- biological weapons or what? Mr. Wilkinson said yes or perhaps airborne carcinogenic substances. Mr. Nussbaum replied that we have no evidence of any biological weapons, but it is possible that vinyl chloride, which is a known human carcinogen may be encountered. However, the contractor will have a safety zone striped out, which by his calculations will represent the line where the dilution factor of the air has brought the concentration down to a safe level. Mr. Adams said that the air monitoring system equipment will be an indicator of safe or dangerous levels of concentration. Mr. Boudreaux asked how vinyl chloride is formed. Mr. Adams replied that household plastic products and some

cleaning solvents deteriorate via a pathway that produces vinyl chloride gas in the landfill, and can be found in most municipal landfills.

Mr. Suits discussed an area of possible concern of unexploded ordnance remaining on Landfill 4 where there once was a grenade launcher range. There however has been a thorough records search and an interview with the person who was the Base explosive safety officer during the duration of the time the range was in operation. It was learned that because of the proximity of the range to a public road and adjacent farmland, the range was only allowed to use a basically inert round -- it was powered by a small 38 caliber shell. The grenade was made of plastic and contained an orange dye in a talcum powder base. The 38 caliber shell would, upon impact, splatter the orange dye to show the "hit." No explosives were used in these practice rounds. A bulldozer has been used to knock down weeds and brush to allow work in the area and the plastic heads are all that have been found from these practice rounds.

7. Mr. Suits reported on progress in transferring property by deed. Fifteen parcels on the Base have been sold to the private sector, and eleven of these have been transferred by deed. The four remaining to be transferred are the golf course, chapel, library and Building 3. The golf course will be transferred next week, and the remaining three in thirty to sixty days. The remaining three were all purchased by Mr. Jack Hayes. Following these, the next initiative is to transfer the airport parcel, the airport support parcels and then the airport airfield itself. The Village has requested that the Forum (athletic building), the Arts and Crafts Auto Hobby Shop, the old swimming pool, the former camp facility and tennis court just north of the Fanmarker Inn be transferred into the airport support parcel rather than with the Recreation Support parcel. Mr. Boudreaux explained the reason for this is that the recreation Department has determined that these parcels are not recreation useful. If they are transferred into revenue generating properties for the airport, they can be used for commercial or industrial purposes. Environmental cleanup work will have to be completed in OU-2 before the properties there can be transferred. In reply to Mr. Adametz's question, Mr. Suits replied that the University of Illinois property is also in OU-2 and so transfer must wait. He also pointed out that the RI on the landfills are showing their boundaries to be in locations other than originally believed and this needs also to be established before transfer.

8. Mr. Boudreaux reported on reuse progress. Youth Services have spent about 1 1/2 million dollars updating their building with classrooms, libraries and sleeping rooms with everything controlled by cameras, buzzers, and electronic controls. The Greyhound Bus Company has started their training program with class two to start on the 17th. Mr. Wirges asked how many classes are there and Mr. Boudreaux replied there are four. The first class had 75 students and 49 graduated. This is a test period in which they are not paying quite enough to cover utilities. So far they like it and we'll see how it progresses.

Mr. Boudreaux reported the Village is near an agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois who has a contract with Tricare, Champus and those kind of programs for health care for retired military people - to be located at 1 Aviation Center. Joyce Smith will be the nurse and Chuck Smith the director of this program to take care of those people having problems with their retiree health care programs.



There are four or five very good buildings that are available for use now. Hangar two is currently being used as a warehouse, on a month to month basis but the Village really wants to see aviation in there. The ramp projects are all complete and stayed under budget. The AWAS project is complete and by the time of the next meeting a person will be able to call and get an instantaneous weather forecast. Mr. Carey asked if there was a new tenant in Building 937. Mr. Boudreaux replied yes, that the tenant is Jacobs Engineering, the base environmental contractor. He also informed Jacobs they could keep Building 728 for as long as needed.


Ms. Wirges brought up the issue of eyesores on the base and Mr. Boudreaux indicated they would be "worked on." Mr. Rauch asked if Greyhound students were staying at the Fanmarker Inn. Mr. Boudreaux replied yes, but if the program goes permanent, they will be building a dormitory in Smith Hall. If permanent, the program will be called TransAmerica U or CrossAmerica U or something like that.

There was a broken steam trench incident caused by a Greyhound student driver turning a corner too sharply. It has been repaired. The Rantoul Airport loaned their four-wheel drive aircraft tug to help extricate the Presidential aircraft from the mud (off edge of runway) at University of Illinois Willard Airport during the President's visit there. Two very large farm tractors also helped to free the plane from the mud.

Mr. Nussbaum explained the process of Remedial Investigation (RI) of environmental sites. The process involves: (1) A records search to determine areas where contamination may exist, (2) Soil sampling to determine how large the area is and (3) Baseline risk assessment to determine the risks to human health and the environment. If this RI shows that there is a risk and that the area must be cleaned up, then a Feasibility Study (FS) must be done to determine the best way to do the cleanup. For example, metals cannot be incinerated so they must be stabilized (perhaps mixing them in concrete) so that they do not leech into the groundwater. Petroleum products can however be removed by volatilization with heat - so that the soil can be heated up, the volatile gases stripped off and soil put back in the ground. Different remediation technologies are used for different contaminants considering protection of human health, cost, short-term risk and long-term risk. The Air Force, in consultation with the EPAs, selects a proposed plan for cleanup and presents it to the community so that citizens have an opportunity to express likes, dislikes or concerns regarding the plan. The Air Force will provide a written response to community input and a responsive summary is attached to that and signed by the Air Force and EPAs. That signed document is called a Record of Decision (ROD) which is binding upon the Air Force, the local community and the USEPA and IEPA. The ROD is signed by the Director of the IEPA, Regional Administrator of the USEPA, and the Secretary of the Air Force. At that point, the cleanup project is designed (Remedial Design) and once approved by the EPAs, the Remedial Action begins.

In response to questions by Ms. Wirges and Mr. Carey, Messrs. Nussbaum and Boudreaux indicated that excavating work will continue on the landfills throughout the summer to include exploratory pits and trenching to determine where the landfill boundaries are. There may be some restrictions, hopefully minimal, to the use of Heritage Lake. Perhaps by the time of the next RAB meeting, there may be an indication of what these may be. As many time-shortening processes as possible are being utilized to speed up the investigative and cleanup processes.

9. The next RAB meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., May 7, 1998 at 1 Aviation Way, Rantoul.
10. The meeting was adjourned.



**VIRLON J. SUITS**  
**BRAC Environmental Coordinator**

**Attachment:**  
**Distribution List**

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**FINAL PAGE**

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**FINAL PAGE**