



# The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update

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

## Air quality tests complete at Grissom Hall

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center, known as AFCEC, conducted testing in early April at Grissom Hall. Results showed the air met the strictest asbestos air quality requirements for public buildings and schools. Grissom Hall contains the Chanute museum and rooms for other educational programs. Air sampling results from five additional occupied buildings (Sleigh Plumbing, PolyConversions, Inc., Rantoul public works facility, Rantoul United Pentecostal Church and Dewey's, Inc.) also met the air quality standards.

AFCEC has been working with the Village of Rantoul to coordinate necessary interim control measures for deteriorated asbestos containing materials, or ACM, present in these buildings. This work has already been completed, and includes ensuring damaged ACM is covered or removed, installing signage identifying the locations of ACM in mechanical rooms, and sealing off potential asbestos hazards as needed to minimize any threat to human health and the environment and comply with applicable laws and regulations.

The Air Force is preparing a contract for abatement - treatment and removal as needed - of damaged and deteriorated asbestos materials within these buildings and 11 additional unoccupied buildings. When the work is complete, the Village is responsible for ensuring any ACM remaining in the buildings is maintained in a condition that does not create a potential source of airborne asbestos fibers.

## Multiple facility demolition underway

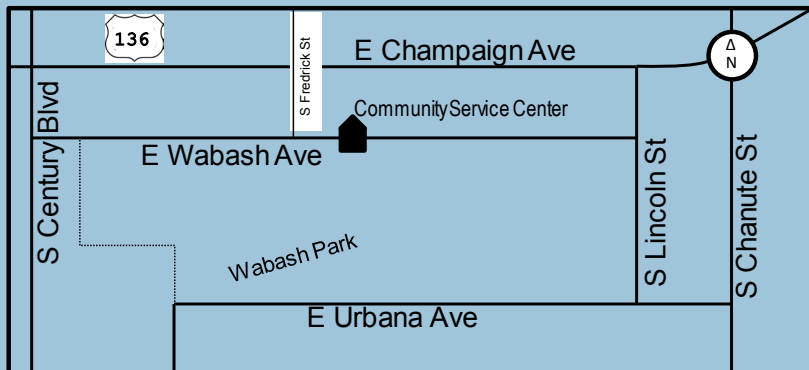
AFCEC's demolition contractor, North Wind Services, began work March 31 on a multiple facility demolition project. Work includes demolition of the former steam plant located at the intersection of Waters Drive and Galaxy Drive, demolition of 94 steam line vaults located throughout the base, and demolition of concrete structures located in the southeast corner of the base associated with a former wastewater treatment plant. Work at the steam plant includes abatement of asbestos, which began March 31 and included sealing

*(Continued "Demolition" Page 2)*



*Sealant over the steam plant's openings bows inward as the vacuum system inside applies negative pressure, preventing the escape of asbestos into the surrounding area.*

**The location of the May 15 Restoration Advisory Board, or RAB, meeting has changed. Please join us at 520 East Wabash Ave, Rantoul, IL 61866 at 12:00pm to discuss the current status of the Chanute environmental cleanup program. If you have any questions, please contact AFCEC public affairs at [afcec.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:afcec.pa@us.af.mil) or toll free 1-866-725-7617.**



## *Continued from Page 1: Demolition*

the building to prevent potential release of asbestos fibers. Abatement is expected to take several weeks before the work is complete. Demolition of the steam plant will follow and is projected to be complete by December.

Contractors are following United States Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois EPA guidelines for addressing hazardous materials. In addition, AFCEC is using a third-party environmental testing firm to perform air monitoring inside and around the steam plant to ensure there is no asbestos present before demolition begins. The contractor is using negative air pressure and High Efficiency Particulate Absorption filtration to keep all material within the sealed structure. Furthermore, the structure and all debris are kept damp to further prevent dust from leaving the containment area.

During demolition, the area around the steam plant will be fenced off for safety purposes. Only approved personnel will be allowed to enter the area. Once demolition is complete, the contractor will also remove

the foundations below the structure to at least four feet below ground. The area will be backfilled, seeded and transferred to the Village of Rantoul without restrictions on future use.

In addition to the steam plant abatement, AFCEC is also performing work on the steam line junction boxes across the former base, commonly referred to as “vaults”. Contractors are utilizing a stepwise approach; asbestos abatement where necessary followed by demolition. Piping in approximately half of the 94 vaults has been removed. No asbestos was present in these vaults. When asbestos is present in a vault the same negative air pressure process for containing asbestos will be used as in the steam plant.

Work at the former wastewater treatment plant is nearing completion. The work included removing trees and shrubs prior to demolition of two large concrete structures. The trees were chipped for reuse as mulch and the concrete was hauled away for recycling. As the work is being completed the site will be restored with grass seed to match the surrounding area.

## **Environmental Cleanup Milestones**

**1. ROD Amendment for Water Tower 968 (SS040) signed:** The Air Force and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency signed a Record of Decision, or ROD, Amendment, for Water Tower 968 (SS040) formerly located in the southeast portion of the former Chanute AFB. Recall that the Air Force 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. After first meeting with the public in October 2013 to present the recommended actions for cleaning up the site, the Air Force signed the ROD on March 7, 2014. The Illinois EPA followed suit on April 17, 2014. In the ROD Amendment, the Air Force and regulators agreed to a remedy resulting in unrestricted land use at all nine sites. Both entities are in the midst of finalizing the Remedial Action Work Plan which details how the remedy outlined

in the ROD Amendment will be executed. Remedial plans include removal and off-site disposal of contaminated soil. No groundwater treatment is required. Once cleanup is complete, the land will be suitable for unrestricted use.

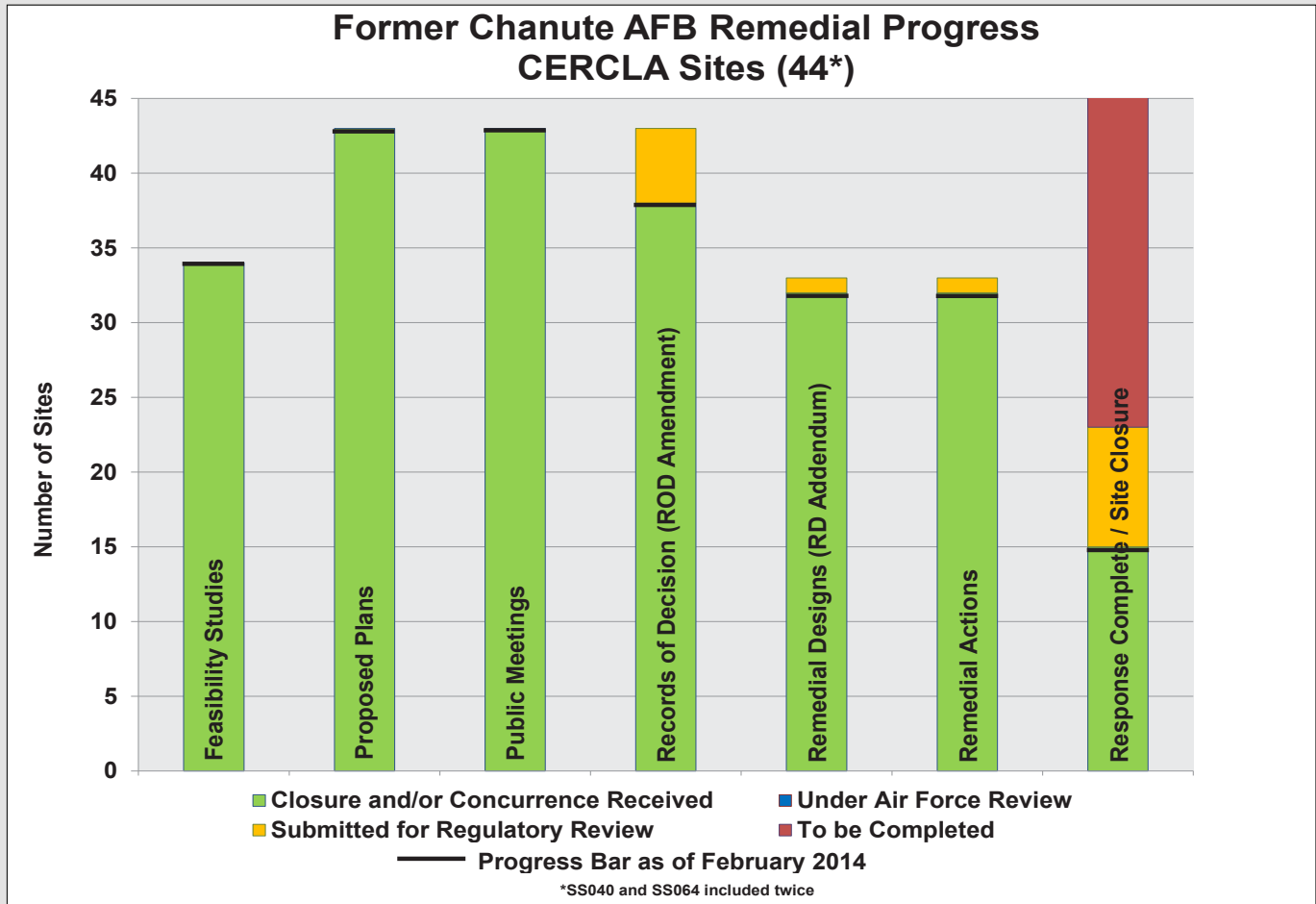
**2. Landfills ROD nearing completion:** AFCEC and Illinois EPA have finalized requirements for the final ROD for the former Chanute landfills. Signature of the ROD by both the Air Force and Illinois EPA should be complete by June. The final ROD selects the actions required at Chanute Landfills 1-4 (Sites LF016, LF017, LF018, and LF019). As documented in the final ROD, AFCEC must continue to restrict site access and conduct operations maintenance and management activities as well as to 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.

# Looking Forward

AFCEC and its performance-based remediation contractor, CB&I Federal Services, Inc., are planning to optimize several of the ongoing cleanups. Planned actions include additional excavation at sites FT021 (Fire Training Area 2) and SS041 (Building 995 Engine Test Cells) and addi-

tional injections at multiple sites. The additional actions are intended to speed cleanup at the sites. By doing so, the Air Force and CB&I will remain on track to achieve their goal of unrestricted closure at the sites before the PBR contract ends in 2016.

## Mapping Our Progress



Progress continues on the 42 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or CERCLA, 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, Remedial Designs and Remedial Actions, all of which culminate with response complete or site closure. Of those, eight did not require Feasibility Studies, and 10 did not require Remedial Designs or Reme-

dial Actions as noted in the ROD for each site. AFCEC has completed RODs for 38 of the 42 CERCLA sites at the former Chanute AFB. As noted previously, the last ROD, which includes Landfills 1-4 is in the signature process with AFCEC and Illinois EPA and should be complete by June. 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.

## Reminder: Bookmark the new Chanute administrative record link

As noted in the previous newsletter, the AFCEC AR link has changed. To access the AR, please visit <http://afcec.publicadmin-record.us.af.mil/> and select "click to continue to site" at the bottom of the page.

From there, select "BRAC" in the top left corner and locate "Chanute" in the drop down menu. The AR contains numerous cleanup and decision documents and RAB meeting materials for the public.

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

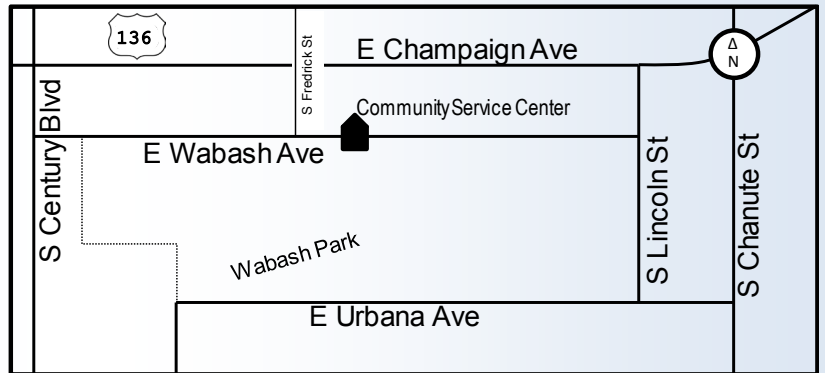
## May 15 Chanute Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

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

**Location:**

Community Services Center  
520 East Wabash Ave.  
Rantoul, IL 61866

**Air Force Civil Engineer Center**  
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