



The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update

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

Expedited Cleanup Underway for Two Sites

Two sites at the former Chanute Air Force Base are currently undergoing an expedited cleanup process known as Remedial Process Optimization, or RPO. Air Force contractors began process optimization this summer at Bldg. 995 Engine Test Cells, known as Site SS041, located at the southeast corner of the base and Fire Training Area 2, known as Site FT021, located one mile west of Site SS041. Optimization at both sites includes soil removal at "hot spot" areas or areas of comparatively high concentrations of contamination.

Air Force contractor, Chicago Bridge & Iron, excavated Site SS041 and disposed of two "hot spot" areas contaminated with chlorinated volatile organic compounds totaling approximately 972 tons of soil in June. In July, CB&I began to remove soil at four Site FT021 "hot spot" areas contaminated with fuel related compounds totaling approximately 5,000 tons of soil.



Air Force Contractor, CB&I, completes backfill of the excavation at Site SS041. U.S. Air Force Photo/Jeff Stringer/released

The contaminated soil from both sites is managed in a safe manner, which includes disposal in accordance with regulatory requirements at the Illinois Landfill in Hoopeston, Ill. The areas at Site SS041 were backfilled with a sand and gravel mixture, and Site FT021 was backfilled with a combination of clean soil and a sand and gravel mixture. Prior to backfilling Site FT021, the soil remaining in the excavations will be treated with an oxygen releasing compound to reduce fuel component concentrations. CB&I installed new monitoring and treatment wells at both sites to replace those lost due to soil excavations.

While groundwater monitoring continues as previously approved at both sites, it is anticipated that groundwater cleanup levels will now be achieved at a much faster rate. The process optimization will ensure these sites will achieve closure by Sept. 30, 2016.

TAPP Contract Awarded: The Air Force awarded a technical assistance for public participation, or TAPP, contract to RAPPS Engineering and Applied Science, Inc. of Springfield, Ill., on June 26. The contract is the fourth consecutive annual TAPP contract awarded to RAPPS. The contract will go toward simplifying complex environmental documents to help ensure Chanute Restoration Advisory Board members and other community members understand the status of cleanup efforts around the former base. This will be the last TAPP contract awarded since the Chanute RAB has reached the combined TAPP funding total allotment of \$100,000.

OPS Demonstration Reports in progress for nineteen Groundwater Sites

CB&I will produce three operating properly and successfully demonstration reports addressing 19 of the 47 cleanup sites included in CB&I's performance based remediation contract at the former Chanute AFB. 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.

An OPS demonstration report involves two separate concepts. First, a remedial action is operating "properly" if it is operating as designed. Second, 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, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency interprets 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.

The 47 PBR contract sites have come a long way in the cleanup process. Seventeen sites have been successfully closed to allow unrestricted (i.e., residential) reuse; nine sites are awaiting regulatory concurrence that they are now suitable for unrestricted reuse and two sites are undergoing cleanup but do not require OPS because they are on transferred

property. This leaves only 19 sites that require OPS to allow property transfer. When complete, 42 of the 47 PBR contract sites will be suitable for unrestricted reuse. Only Landfills 1-4 and Fire Training Area 2 will have restrictions precluding residential reuse.

Currently, the Air Force is working with the Illinois EPA and U.S. EPA to obtain the necessary regulatory review of the OPS reports. Pending Illinois EPA coordination and U.S. EPA approval, these reports will enable the Air Force to transfer all remaining property to the Village of Rantoul and the University of Illinois beginning later this year.

AFCEC/Public Affairs
2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 155
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Nov. 20 Chanute Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

RAB Meeting: Noon

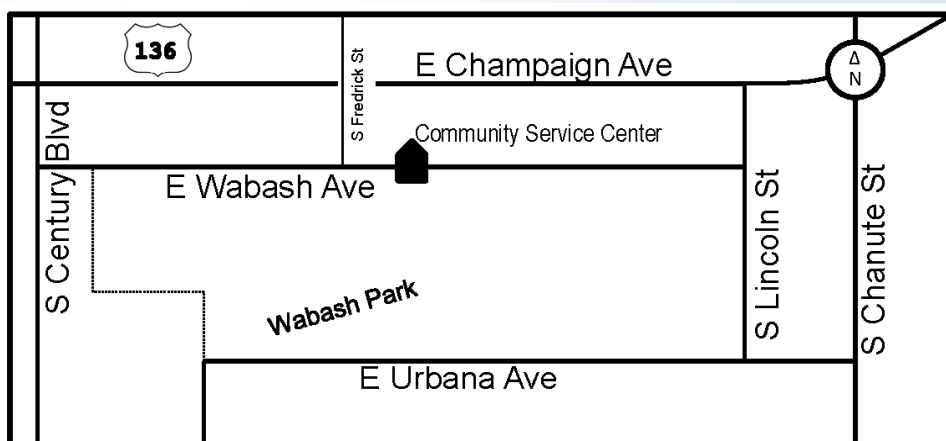
Location:

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

Air Force Civil Engineer Center

Toll Free (866) 725-7616

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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 _____
