



# The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update

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

## Contract Awarded for Asbestos Repair and Removal

On Sept. 3, Air Force Civil Engineer Center announced the award of a \$6 million contract to CB&I Federal Services, LLC, for repair and removal of asbestos in 17 facilities at the former Chanute AFB in Rantoul, Ill.

Preliminary planning for the project is complete and initial investigations are underway. By mid-December detailed assessments of each facility will be complete. Results of these assessments will be used to develop building-specific repair and removal requirements. Actual repair and removal work is scheduled to begin in January 2015 after all plans have been approved by the Air Force, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

"The contract includes buildings that the Air Force previously committed to address as a condition of the basewide lease to the Village of Rantoul," said Paul Carroll, AFCEC's Installations Directorate BRAC Execution Branch.

While six of the buildings are occupied, 11 are unoccupied. Occupied buildings to be addressed in the project include Grisom Hall, Sleight Plumbing, PolyConversions, Inc., Rantoul

United Pentecostal Church, Dewey's, Inc., and a Rantoul public works facility. "We will continue to coordinate with the Village of Rantoul and the building occupants to minimize disruptions as this project progresses," Carroll said.

All occupied buildings have been tested to confirm the asbestos is not airborne and does not present a health concern. As a precaution, during repair and removal activities, the occupants will either be relocated until the work is completed or containment barriers will be erected to isolate the work space from the occupied areas. As was done at the steam plant, negative air pressure and High Efficiency Particulate Absorption filtration will be used to keep material within the containment area. Furthermore, the asbestos material will be kept damp to further prevent dust from leaving the containment area.

Air monitoring inside and around the buildings will be used to ensure no asbestos escapes the work area. Air sampling will also be conducted after the work is complete to verify the areas are safe to occupy. The project is expected to be completed by August 2015.

## Steam Plant Demolition in Progress

Air Force contractor North Wind Services, LLC, continues to make significant progress at the former steam plant. Laboratory samples collected in mid-September confirmed that asbestos removal was complete and signaled the start of demolition. After removal of the containment barriers and scaffolding, demolition started at the east end of the steam plant.

After demolition of the plant is complete, the Electrostatic Precipitator (a large metal structure) will be demolished, followed by removal of the stack. The stack will be removed using a "controlled tilt" method where cables are attached at strategic points and the stack is carefully laid over on its side. After the stack is down, it will be cut into sections and hauled away for recycling.

Once the above ground structures have been removed, various concrete slabs, foundations, and sump walls will be removed to a minimum of three feet below ground surface. The

area will then be backfilled, graded, and restored with grass.



*AFCEC contractors demolish a steam plant at the former Chanute AFB, Ill., October 2014. Photo courtesy: North Wind Services, LLC*

In addition to the progress at the steam plant, all 94 steam line vaults have been inspected for asbestos and any detected has been removed. All equipment inside the vaults has been removed, the vault walls have been demolished and the rubble removed. The steam tunnels entering or exiting the vaults were sealed with concrete and the areas have been backfilled and restored to match the surrounding landscape.

Demolition of two concrete tanks has been completed. The tanks were the last remnants of a wastewater treatment plant formerly located in the southeast corner of the base. All liquids were drained from the tanks, sampled and properly disposed. The tanks were then demolished and the concrete was recycled and/or disposed. The hole where the tanks were removed was backfilled and the area was graded to match the surrounding land contours and grass seed was applied to match the surrounding landscape.

# Milestones

**1. Landfills Record of Decision:** The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or CERCLA, Record of Decision for Landfills 1-4 (LF016, LF017, LF018, and LF019) was signed on Oct. 6 by Illinois EPA.

This is the last ROD for the former Chanute and signifies the completion of the CERCLA remedy selection process for all 59 CERCLA sites on the former base.

The ROD determines how a site will be cleaned up and specifies any monitoring and maintenance requirements. In the case of the four landfills, the final ROD concluded that previous Air Force actions were adequate. The ROD also specified long-term land use controls and operation, maintenance, and monitoring requirements. Implementing these additional actions ensures the landfills are not a threat to human health or the environment.

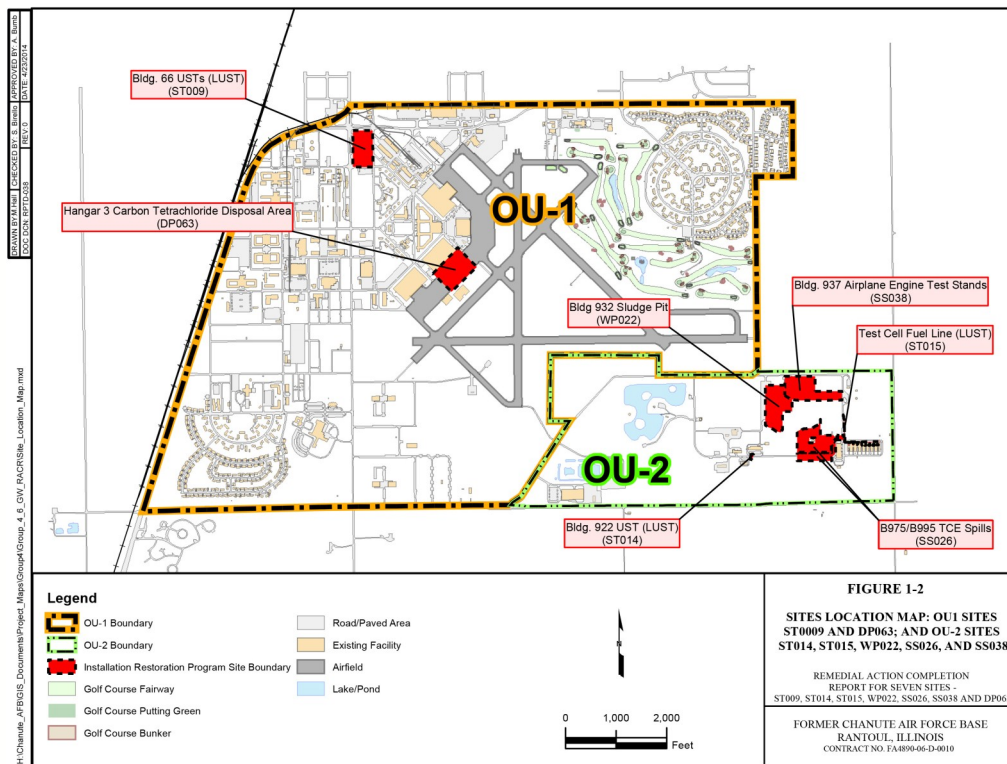
**2. Remedial Action Completion Report:** Illinois EPA approved the Remedial Action Completion Report for seven sites (ST009, ST014, ST015, WP022, SS026, SS038, and DP063). The approval of this report by the Illinois EPA confirms and concludes the cleanup of all seven sites and all property is suitable for “unrestricted use,” meaning there will be no land use controls or redevelopment restrictions on the land.

This brings the total number of sites closed under the Performance-Based Remediation contract to 26 of 47. Air Force contractors are making significant progress on the 21 remaining sites and are on track to close them out be-

fore the PBR contract concludes in September 2016. 42 of 47 sites are projected to close to unlimited use and unrestricted exposure or UU/UE (residential reuse) with only the four landfills and former Fire Training Area 2 (site FT021) having restrictions prohibiting residential reuse.

The landfills will also have access restrictions (i.e., fencing installed).

The Air Force and its regulatory partners (Illinois EPA and USEPA) closed 34 additional sites prior to the PBR contract. All 34 sites were cleaned up and closed to UU/UE bringing a total of 76 out of 81 sites that will be cleaned up to residential use levels once work at Chanute is complete.

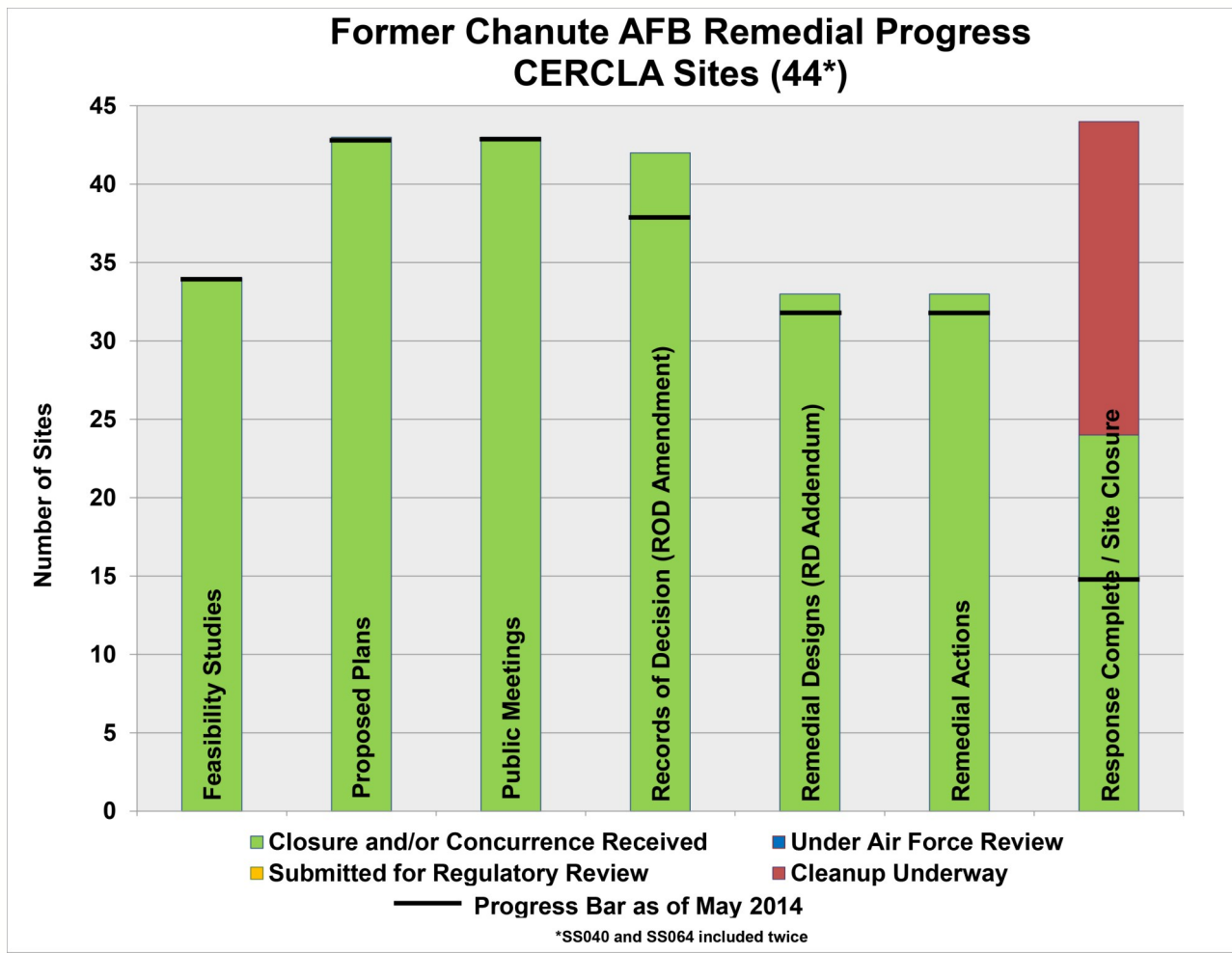


Illinois EPA approved the RACR for seven sites highlighted in red. Map courtesy: CB&I Federal Services, LLC

## 3. Operating Properly and Successfully

**Determination Reports:** Illinois EPA concurs with the Air Force’s position that remedial action systems are operating properly and successfully for eleven groundwater sites included in the first Chanute OPS Determination Report. U.S. EPA is currently reviewing the OPS Determination Report. A response from USEPA is expected in December. 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 Air Force is continuing to develop reports for the other sites that will require an OPS demonstration before the property can be transferred. The other sites include the four landfills (sites LF016, LF017, LF018 and LF019), Fire Training Area 2 (site FT021) and the Area 130 TCE [trichloroethylene] Disposal Pit (site WP080).

# 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 plan, a public meeting, a record of decision, remedial design and remedial action, all of which culminate with response complete or site closure. With

signing of the landfills ROD, AFCEC has now completed RODs for all 42 CERCLA sites at the former Chanute AFB. In addition, seven sites were recently approved for site closure. 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.

**EDC Application Approval Benefits the Village of Rantoul:** The village’s Economic Development Conveyance application was approved and the EDC agreement was signed, accepted and approved by the Air Force and the Village of Rantoul in September. This allowed for the transfer of 178 acres to the Village of Rantoul, also completed in September. The transfer included the ‘Roads-2e’ parcel, needed to allow construction of a new intersection connecting Flessner Avenue to U.S. Route 45 which will serve as a new entry point to the former Chanute base. Approval of the EDC also paves the way for transfer of the remaining utility systems to the village. Utility systems to be transferred include the electrical and water distribution systems and the wastewater collection system. These transfer actions are projected to be complete before the end of the calendar year.

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## Nov. 20, 2014 Chanute Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

**RAB Meeting:** Noon

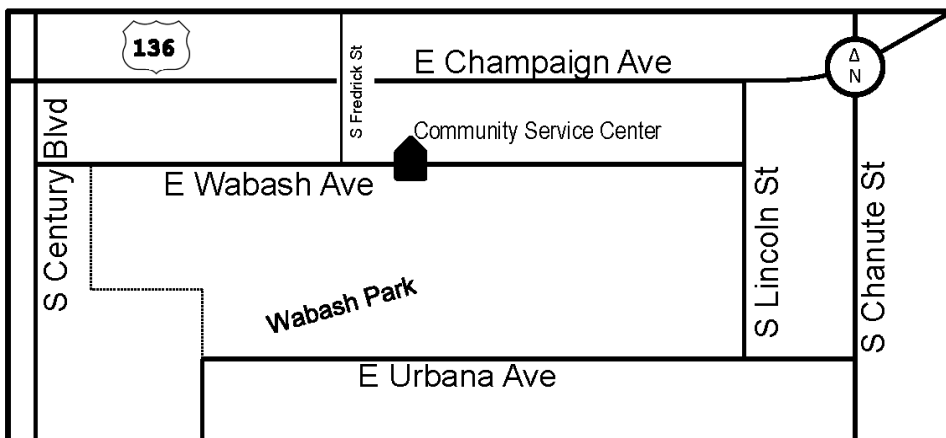
**Location:**

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

**Air Force Civil Engineer Center**

**Toll Free (866) 725-7616**

**[www.AFCEC.AF.mil](http://www.AFCEC.AF.mil)**



**Mark your calendars for the first 2015 RAB Meeting:  
May 21, 2015**

### Feedback, comments, and more information

☐

I would like more information about the environmental cleanup of the former Chanute Air Force Base.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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