



The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update

Published to keep the Rantoul, Ill., community informed of the Air Force's cleanup progress | February 2015

White Hall Abatement and Demolition Contract Awarded

On Nov. 13, 2014, Air Force Civil Engineer Center announced the award of a \$7.83 million contract to CB&I Federal Services for asbestos and lead-based paint abatement/removal and demolition of White Hall at the former Chanute AFB in Rantoul, Ill.



When demolition of White Hall is completed, the Village of Rantoul will have the added potential to develop the former Chanute AFB to best suit the community's needs. Photo courtesy: Jim Husbands, AFCEC contractor

"The contract marks a significant milestone at Chanute and is the largest abatement and demolition effort undertaken by the Air Force at the former base," said Paul Carroll, a member of AFCEC's Installations Directorate BRAC Execution Branch.

The 400,000-square-foot White Hall, constructed in 1940 and once the largest facility in the Department of Defense, now sits obsolete and in a state of deterioration.

White Hall is riddled with asbestos and mold, and is falling apart in many areas. The demolition effort includes removal of asbestos-containing materials and proper handling and disposal of other hazardous materials such as lead-based paint, oil and grease.

Initial planning is underway and the project is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete. Asbestos abatement will begin this spring followed by demolition this summer and continuing through winter 2016.

Additional details as the work progresses will be provided in future newsletters.

Steam Plant Project Nearing Completion

Air Force contractors have made great strides in demolishing the steam plant.

With lab samples confirming complete asbestos removal in September 2014, Air Force contractor North Wind Services, immediately transitioned to demolishing the steam plant and electrostatic precipitator, which was a large metal structure.

Once demolition of the steam plant and electrostatic precipitator were complete, Air Force contractors proceeded to demolish the stack using a "controlled tilt" method and pulled the stack down on to its side.

Most of the material from steam plant, electrostatic precipitator and the stack were cut up and hauled off for recycling. Air Force contractors have begun site restoration which is projected to be completed this spring.



The Air Force recently completed demolition of the former Chanute steam plant to prepare the site for restoration this spring. Photos courtesy: North Wind Services

Looking Forward in 2015

The Air Force goal is to achieve whole base transfer in 2015. This goal includes the transfer of four remaining utility systems to the Village of Rantoul (water, electrical, sewer and storm) and transfer of approximately 413 acres to various entities. Of the 413 acres, approximately 354 acres will be transferred to the Village of Rantoul while the University of Illinois will receive nearly 50 acres. Less than 10 of the remaining acres will be transferred to a private party and to the Illinois Department of Military Affairs for Lincoln's Challenge Academy.

To achieve whole base transfer the Air Force must achieve "OPS" or "operating properly and successfully." This 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 continues to work with both the Illinois and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and to get final approval on its OPS demonstration reports.

The Air Force is also working to complete steam plant demolition with full site restoration projected to be complete this spring. The Air Force plans to make significant progress with demolition of White Hall in 2015 with complete demolition and restoration of the White Hall property in 2016.



Photo of the smoke stack at the Chanute steam plant as it is being demolished via a "controlled-tilt" method. Photo courtesy: North Wind Services

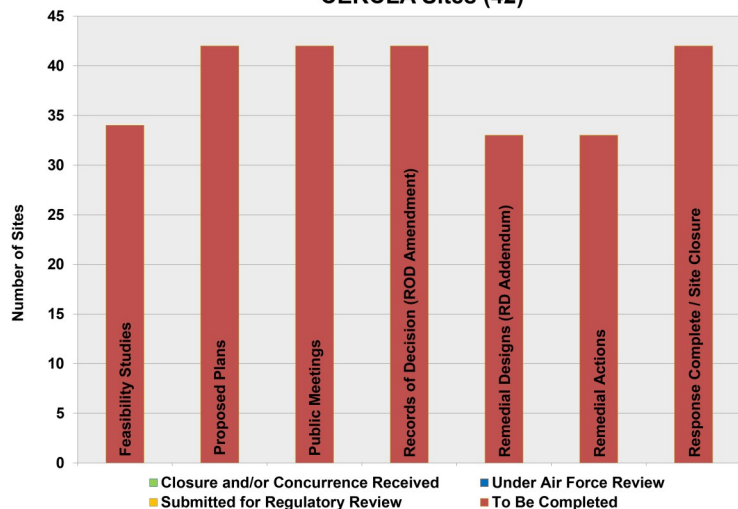
The Air Force and its Performance-Based Remediation contractor, CB&I Federal Services, continue to make progress with cleanup of the remaining environmental sites. The Air Force and CB&I are working closely with regulatory partners at the Illinois EPA to position several sites for closure in 2015.

As the Air Force and CB&I near the end of the PBR contract, they are continually evaluating sites to identify any that may need additional action to expedite the ongoing cleanup. In conjunction with the Illinois EPA, the team implemented optimization efforts at Fire Training Area 2 (FT021) and Bldg. 995 Engine Test Cells (Site SS041). Initial results show those actions were successful, especially at site FT021 where recent sampling results indicate contamination is below cleanup goals.

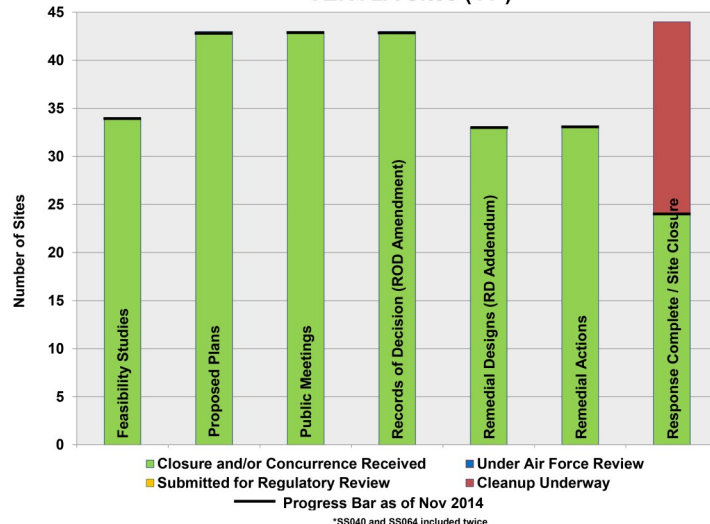
For 2015, the Air Force has grouped sites into three categories, the first are sites that can be closed out without the need of additional work, the second are sites that require a little "nudge" to get them ready for closure. For these sites CB&I will be conducting additional injections in the spring to expedite cleanup of residual groundwater contamination. The third group of sites requires more rigorous action. For this group, CB&I conducted additional soil excavations in January and February and will also conduct additional injections in the spring.

Mapping Our Progress

**Former Chanute AFB Remedial Progress
CERCLA Sites (42)**



**Former Chanute AFB Remedial Progress
CERCLA Sites (44*)**



The first and final progress charts above demonstrate a snap-shot of where AFCEC started and how far it has come in the last six years thanks to its industry partnership with CB&I Federal Services and continued support from the Illinois EPA and the Village of Rantoul.

PBR Contract from its First to its Final Year

On Dec. 12, 2008, the Air Force announced the award of a \$38.7 million dollar contract to Knoxville, Tennessee-based Shaw Environmental, Inc. now known as CB&I Federal Services for remediation work at the former Chanute AFB in Rantoul, Ill.

The Performance-Based Remediation contract will end Sept. 28, 2016, and marks a significant environmental cleanup milestone at Chanute.

“When we first announced the award of this contract we were confident that a partnership with private industry would help yield the cleanup results the Air Force, Illinois EPA, the Village of Rantoul and other stakeholders expected. Not only are we meeting the goals we set in 2008 but we are exceeding them, expediting cleanup by several years at many sites and achieving unrestricted closure at 42 sites which above and beyond the 36 originally projected,” said Paul Carroll, a member of AFCEC’s Installations Directorate BRAC Execution Branch. “The Air Force remains committed to protecting human health and the environment at the former Chanute AFB.”

To achieve the Air Force’s goal of having all remedial actions in place by 2012, CB&I divided the 47 PBR sites into 11 groups based upon similar contaminants, site characteristics, remedial objectives, and remedial approaches. Once the planning documents were finalized, CB&I began field work utilizing aggressive and innovative cleanup techniques to ensure the remediation is performed efficiently and properly.

In its first year, CB&I and the Air Force, in coordination with both the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and U.S.

EPA, proposed “No Further Action” closure for six sites and prepared several key documents that positioned CB&I to conduct cleanup up activities at 18 additional sites in 2010. Similar progress in the following years allowed the Air Force and CB&I to achieve their 2012 remedy-in-place goal.

Fast forward to 2014, due to this successful partnership, the Air Force closed 26 of 47 sites at Chanute. To achieve site closure, the Air Force demonstrated that all goals specified in the Records of Decision were met; all necessary reports were complete and the sites are now protective of human health and the environment. Upon site closure, environmental cleanup actions are complete and there will be no restrictions on future land use.

Several additional sites have met remedial goals but are undergoing rebound monitoring with the goal of achieving closure this year. Lastly, 15 sites received optimization actions (e.g., peroxide injections or additional excavation) in an effort to ensure these sites are completed while continuing the operation, maintenance and long-term monitoring at four landfill sites. With these efforts, the Air Force and CB&I remain on track to achieve their goal of unrestricted closure before the PBR contract ends in 2016.

Since Chanute’s closure in 1993, AFCEC has worked closely with both the Illinois and U.S. EPA to prepare former base property for transfer— identifying environmental sites, determining the extent of contamination, and conducting clean-up actions. To date, the Air Force has transferred 1,786 of 2,199 acres to the Village of Rantoul and private developers.

Addressing Emerging Contaminants at Chanute

Emerging contaminants are chemicals or materials in which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency does not have cleanup standards and there is currently uncertainty on the impact to human health.

Perfluorinated Compounds or PFCs are a family of fluorine-containing chemicals with unique properties to make materials heat, stain and stick-resistant and are considered emerging contaminants.

PFCs are found in common items that we come into contact with every day. Manufacturers currently use PFCs to repel oil and water from clothing, carpeting, furniture and food packaging. PFCs were even used in fast food wrappers as recently as 2007.

PFCs are also found in Aqueous Film Forming Foam or AFFF. This is a certain type of fire-fighting foam that has been used by industry and the Air Force since 1970 to specifically fight

petroleum fires. The Air Force’s past use of AFFF has become a cause for concern at both active and closed Air Force installations, including the former Chanute AFB. AFCEC has taken proactive steps to assess potential human health risks and address any community concerns.

Recent sampling for PFCs in the shallow surficial aquifer, known as the Wisconsin and not used by the public water supply, has been conducted at five fire training demonstration areas and Fire Training Area 2 (FT021) at the former Chanute AFB. Sampling results for five of the six sites exceeded drinking water provisional health advisory levels set by the EPA Office of Water.

AFCEC will be working in coordination with its regulatory partners to conduct additional investigation at these five sites and to take additional action if necessary.

May 21, 2015 Chanute Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

RAB Meeting: Noon

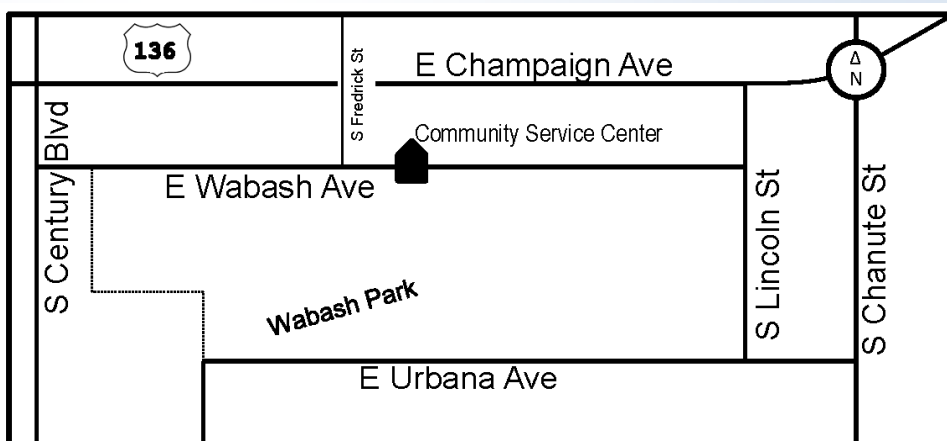
Location:

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

Air Force Civil Engineer Center

Toll Free (866) 725-7616

www.AFCEC.AF.mil



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 _____
