



The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update

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

Illinoisan aquifer non-detect for PFCs

As part of an on-going investigation by the Air Force in coordination with the Illinois EPA, the Illinoisan aquifer was recently tested for Perflourinated Compounds, or PFCs.

Samples of the Illinoisan aquifer were non-detect for PFCs. This means that PFCs detected in the upper zone, the Wiconsian groundwater system, have not migrated downward and impacted the lower Illinoisan aquifer. The Illinoisan aquifer is used in the area for private drinking water wells.

What are PFCs?

PFCs are a group of man-made chemicals that have been used for a wide variety of residential, commercial and industrial uses. Aqueous Film Forming Foam, or AFFF,

used for firefighting appears to be the most likely source of PFC presence at Air Force bases, including former Chanute AFB. They are classified as emerging contaminants because they do not have established regulatory standards, but evolving science has identified potential risk to human health and regulatory standards are under consideration.

Next Steps

The Air Force will continue to assess five fire training areas on the former base and other potential areas for the presence of PFCs in coordination with the Illinois EPA. These areas were targeted for investigation because there was a high likelihood of PFC use at these locations based on past operations.

Asbestos Repair and Removal Complete at 11 Facilities

Air Force contractor, CB&I Federal Services, LLC has completed the repair and/or removal of asbestos-containing material (ACM) in 11 of 17 facilities at the former Chanute Air Force Base that began in May.

ACM abatement activities include the removal of damaged floor tile, removal or repair of insulation on steam piping and on heating/air conditioning duct systems, and removal of ceiling tiles and miscellaneous damaged ACM such as window and door caulking.

ACM abatement activities have been completed in 11 facilities (Bldgs. 2, 52, 53, 56, 61, 935, 937, 975, 988, 995 and 996).

ACM repair/removal work will continue in Grissom Hall (Building 12) which includes the Chanute Air Museum areas, Lincoln's Chal-

lenge Academy hallways and the Grissom Hall Theater areas. ACM abatement of floor tile and tile mastic includes the enclosure of the walls, ceiling and HVAC systems with double layers of plastic and operation of a neg-

ative air High-Efficiency Particulate Absorption, or HEPA, filtration system to maintain negative air pressure systems to prevent escape of asbestos fibers. Indoor air space is also monitored and tested to ensure protection of building personnel. Upon completion of the tile removal and mastic, the floor is restored with solid surface epoxy coatings or resilient tiles.

The repairs and/or removal of ACM at

the remaining six facilities will be complete before the end of 2015.



Typical hallway in Bldg. 12—Lincoln's Challenge Academy showing condition of ACM floor tile before ACM abatement and after abatement. Photo Courtesy, AF contractor, CB&I

White Hall Abatement and Demolition Update

Air Force contractor CB&I Federal Services began the first phase of the abatement and demolition work at White Hall in May.

Phase I

The first phase includes the removal of universal waste such as tires, light bulbs, light ballast, batteries and electrical transformers. After the universal waste has been removed, the windows, doors and openings are sealed (enclosed). A HEPA filtration system is continuously operated to maintain a negative pressure inside the enclosure prior to starting debris removal and asbestos abatement.

ACM Removal

Asbestos-containing material, or ACM, mostly consisting of floor tiles, and all interior debris are then removed and double sealed into plastic-lined containers prior to shipment to an approved disposal facility.

Exterior ambient air monitoring for asbestos particulates is conducted daily at four stations surrounding the building to confirm that no asbestos materials are being accidentally discharged to the air.

Upon completion of the interior ACM abatement, the building section is inspected and tested to con-

firm that all asbestos and universal waste has been removed.

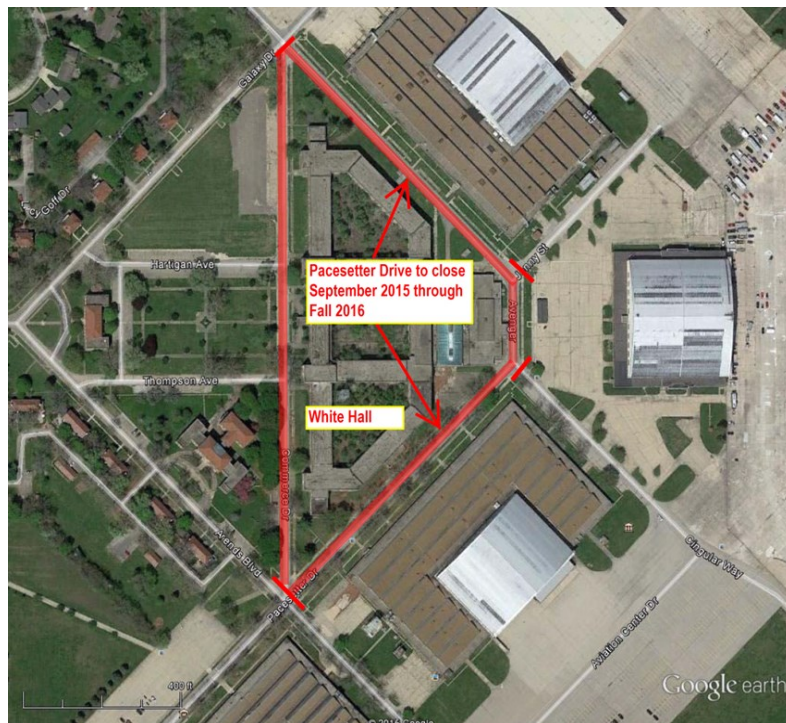
Following the abatement of ACM, windows and doors with lead-based paint are removed. After these are removed, the HEPA containment system is removed.

Next Steps

Universal waste removal and ACM abatement has been completed in approximately 30 percent of the building and will continue through December 2015. Demolition of the structure will begin in late 2015 with completion and site restoration in Fall 2016. Pacesetter Drive will be closed September 2015 through the completion of the site work in late 2016.



White Hall windows sealed prior to abatement. Photo Courtesy, AF contractor, CB&I



Map of White Hall showing security fencing and road closure. Photo Courtesy, AF contractor, CB&I

Investigation Update at Former Chemical Agent Training Area

In June 2015, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a contract to USA Environmental, Inc. to conduct investigations at the Chemical Agent Training Area, or CATA, located within an estimated 3-acre area in the southern portion at the former Chanute AFB.

During its operational years, between 1930 and 1950, the CATA was used for demonstrations of incendiary bombs, colored chemical smokes, gas sniff tests and identification/decontamination of chemical agents also known as Chemical Agent Identification Sets, or CAIS.

Origin of CAIS

Between the 1930s and 1960s, the Department of Defense produced CAIS to train Soldiers to identify and decontaminate chemical agents in the field. Similar kits, also known as war gas identification sets, also were produced by civilian companies for civilian use (e.g., civil defense training purposes).

For identification, individual vials were detonated and Soldiers walked through the cloud to become familiar with the odor of the most common chemical agents. For decontamination of equipment, chemical agents were applied to surfaces which Soldiers cleaned to make them safe for use.

Prior to the 1970s, one of the approved procedures for disposing of CAIS was burial on training ranges or areas. When buried, CAIS were either buried in their original metal or wooden storage and shipping containers — called “Pigs” — or as loose glass vials.

Current State of Investigation

Historic documents do not indicate any on-property disposal of these materials and at present, there is no indication of contamination in the CATA. However, as an added precaution USACE and Air Force contractors are searching for the shipping containers or Pigs and any environmental contamination within the 3-acre tract.

Next Steps

The USACE and the Air Force will continue the due diligence of investigating to find any remnants of CAIS and

address any residual environmental contamination. An Electromagnetic Survey will be conducted in October, followed by further investigation in early 2016. Results of the investigation will be shared with the community once complete.



The CAIS most commonly encountered are flamed sealed glass vials from the M1 Detonation Kit. Please note this photo is for illustrative purposes only and not taken at the former Chanute AFB. Photo Courtesy, Department of the Army



The CAIS vials can be found loose or packed in their pigs – their original storage and shipping containers. Please note this photo is for illustrative purposes only and not taken at the former Chanute AFB. Photo Courtesy, Department of the Army

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Nov. 19, 2015 Chanute Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

RAB Meeting: Noon

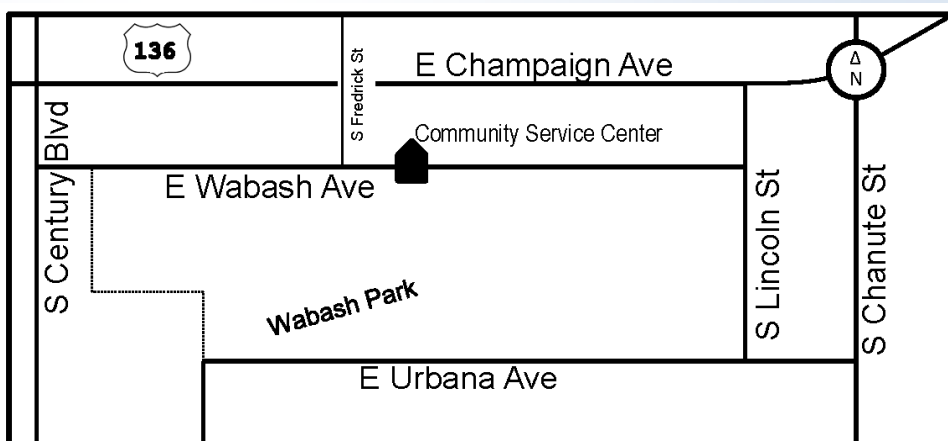
Location:

Community Services Center
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Air Force Civil Engineer Center

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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.

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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 _____

