



Air Force Installation & Mission Support Center



Fact Sheet

Former Chanute AFB PFAS Remedial Investigation September 2024 Update

What are PFAS?

PFAS are a group of synthetic fluorinated chemicals. Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) are two organic chemicals within the PFAS group that were used in industrial and consumer products such as nonstick cookware, stain-resistant fabric and carpet, waterproof fabric, some food packaging, and the firefighting agent Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF). In 1970, the Air Force began using AFFF for extinguishing petroleum fires to save people and property. At Chanute AFB, AFFF was used and stored until the base closed in 1993. PFAS are classified as emerging contaminants because:

- ✓ They have reasonable pathways to reach drinking water sources.
- ✓ They present a potential unacceptable risk to human health.
- ✓ Regulatory standards are evolving.

Air Force Response to PFAS

The Air Force is coordinating with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to ensure appropriate measures are being taken to address PFAS at former Chanute AFB. Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process, the Air Force conducted a Preliminary Assessment in 2016, and completed a Site Inspection in 2018. The Site Inspection concluded that PFAS are present in soil, groundwater, stormwater, surface water, and sediment at several AFFF release areas. Based on these results, the Air Force determined that a Remedial Investigation was warranted. Additionally, a non-drinking water response was taken at Landfill 2, where PFAS were detected in landfill leachate. The Air Force installed a system to treat landfill leachate prior to discharge to the Village of Rantoul publicly owned treatment system. Currently, the Air Force is conducting the Remedial Investigation, and fieldwork will be executed over several mobilizations starting late April 2024 and ending in 2025. The Remedial Investigation process aims to identify the nature and extent of PFAS contamination and assess its risk to human health and the environment.

Remedial Investigation Timeline

Activity	Planned Start Date	Planned Completion Date
Mobilization 1 Sampling	Started April 2024	Completed June 2024
Mobilization 2 Sampling	Started September 2024	Late Fall 2024
Mobilization 3 Sampling	Spring 2025	Summer 2025
Final Groundwater Sampling	Fall 2025	Fall 2025
RI Report	Winter 2025	Summer 2026

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For more information, contact AFIMSC Public Affairs: 1-866-725-7617 | 210-925-0956
AFIMSC.PA.workflow@us.af.mil | www.afimsc.af.mil



Progress Report

The Air Force finished Mobilization 1, the first drilling and sampling event, in June of this year. The Air Force installed 84 groundwater monitoring wells, 91 soil borings, and took samples from new and existing wells and borings all of the sites shown in Figure 4 below. 29 storm water and 30 sanitary sewer samples were also collected. The Air Force also sampled Salt Fork Creek water and sediment samples. Preliminary sample results show that more soil and groundwater samples need to be collected to determine the extent of PFAS.



Figure 1: Monitoring Well Installation



Figure 2: Salt Fork Creek Sampling



Figure 3: Storm Water Sampling

Next Steps

During Mobilization 2, the Air Force is installing more groundwater wells and soil borings to determine the extent of PFAS at the same sites as Mobilization 1 starting in early September. PFAS was identified at one new location, Building 950 Sewage Sludge Disposal Area, that will require further investigation. The Air Force will conduct Mobilization 3 if additional samples are needed to determine the extent of PFAS at any of the sites after reviewing the results from Mobilization 2.

If you see a work crew installing wells or taking samples, we ask that you give them plenty of room to operate. The safety of the community, ecosystems, and work crews is our highest priority.

