



Air Force Installation & Mission Support Center



Fact Sheet

Former Chanute AFB PFAS Remedial Investigation May 2025 Update

What are PFAS?

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a large class of chemicals found in many consumer products, as well as in industrial products such as certain firefighting agents called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF). PFAS is also found in essential use applications such as in microelectronics, batteries, and medical equipment. There is significant attention on PFAS releases from DoD activities and the subsequent potential impact to human health and the environment. The presence of PFAS in the environment is a national issue due to its wide-spread use in many industrial and consumer products. The Department of Defense recognizes the importance of this issue and is committed to addressing PFAS in a deliberative, holistic, and transparent manner. For more information on PFAS and the Department's strategy, please refer to the PFAS Overview at <https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/eer/ecc/pfas/pfas101/index.html>.

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), 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 a Remedial Investigation, which aims to identify the nature and extent of PFAS contamination and assess the risk to human health and the environment. Fieldwork for the RI began with Mobilization 1 in April 2024 and subsequent mobilizations will continue through Spring 2026.

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	Completed November 2024
Mobilization 3 Sampling	Started May 19, 2025	Summer 2025
Mobilization 4 and Final Groundwater Sampling	Fall 2025	Spring 2026
RI Report		Fall 2026

PUBLIC MEETING VIDEO AVAILABLE

The video of the Wednesday, June 11th, 2025, 7 pm, public meeting at the Village Hall is available for viewing on the Village of Rantoul Facebook page. The Air Force provided an update on the PFAS Remedial Investigation at Chanute.



Progress Report

The Air Force has completed two RI sampling mobilizations. During Mobilization 1, the Air Force installed 84 groundwater monitoring wells and 83 soil borings. Samples were collected from all new wells and borings, 29 storm water and 28 sanitary sewer locations, and water and sediment from Salt Fork Creek. During Mobilization 2, the Air Force installed an additional 41 soil borings and 52 monitoring wells. In total, the Air Force has collected approximately 375 groundwater samples and 475 soil samples in addition to surface water, outfalls, and sediment samples in Salt Fork Creek; and sanitary sewer and storm sewer samples.



Figure 1: Monitoring Well Boring



Figure 2: Monitoring Well Sampling

Next Steps

The Air Force will continue sampling to determine the extent of PFAS contamination from past AFFF use. On Jan. 17, 2025, the Assistant Secretary of Defense released a memorandum titled "Investigating Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances within the Department of Defense Cleanup Program," which provided updated screening levels for PFAS in soil and groundwater. The updated screening levels for soil and groundwater are lower than those used during Mobilizations 1 and 2. Additional sampling needs to be completed to define the extent of PFAS contamination and to determine background levels. Mobilization 3 is planned to begin in Spring 2025 at the same sites as Mobilizations 1 and 2.

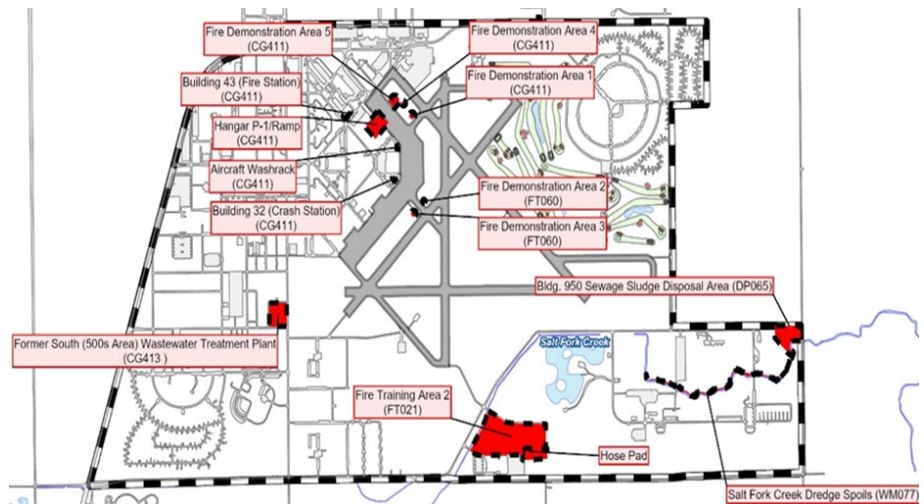


Figure 3: AFFF Areas

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.

Your Success is Our Mission

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