



# The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update



Published to keep the Rantoul, Ill. community informed of the Air Force's environmental cleanup progress | Feb 2012

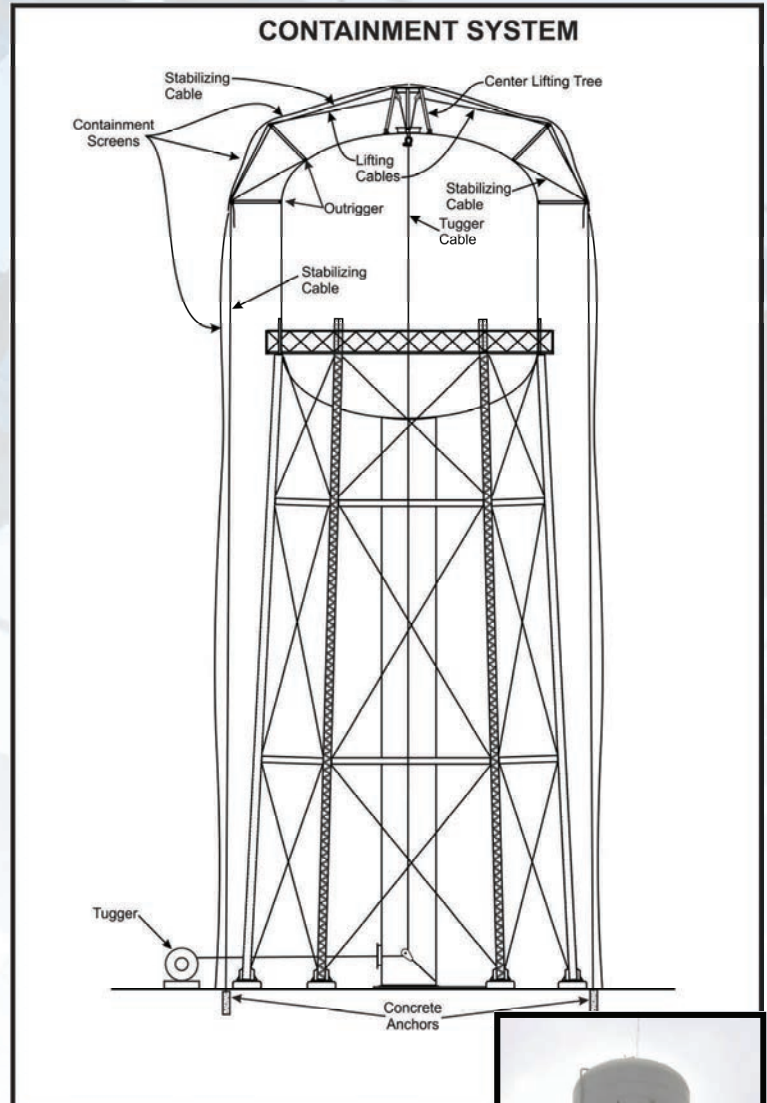
## Water tower demolition, refurbishment planned for 2012

The Air Force awarded a contract to Environmental Chemical Corporation in September 2011 to demolish Water Towers 120, 122 and 968, as well as refurbish Water Tower 44. The Air Force will finalize the project work plan in mid-February 2012. ECC will begin field work in March 2012 and complete the work plan by Summer 2012.

The demolition projects will involve cutting the water towers down to manageable size pieces so they can be hauled away for recycling. The refurbishment includes resurfacing the water tower through abrasive blasting of the inside and outside to remove lead-based paint and allow for repainting of the water tower. The water tower will be painted to match the other towers in the village. To contain dust and abrasive blasting material, workers will install a temporary protective shroud and vacuum containment system over Water Tower 44. The containment system will ensure contamination from blasting operations does not escape outside the work area.

The refurbishment work will also involve upgrades to bring the water tower up to current safety codes. This work will include installing a new ladder, safety attachment points for riggers to use during painting and maintenance and security fencing around the water tower base.

The Air Force plans to transfer Water Tower 44 to the Village of Rantoul as part of the water distribution system. The Air Force has worked closely with the Village on this project as they will ultimately maintain the tower. Since the tower is currently in service, the Air Force will coordinate field work with the Village to avoid any service interruptions to the residents of Rantoul.



*The Air Force will take every precaution to ensure Tower 44 (right) is refurbished by Summer 2012 without impacting the human and natural environment. The containment system (above) will capture potentially harmful particles preventing further soil contamination.*



# Unrestricted *opportunities*

## Air Force Accelerated Site Completion Program comes to Chanute

**T**he Air Force has conducted cleanup activities under various regulatory programs for over 30 years.

During that time, the Air Force's view on cleanup activities evolved into a more aggressive approach that targets unrestricted use of transferred property, meaning there will be no restriction against developing the land for any particular purpose.

Taking these properties to unrestricted use status helps local partners by facilitating redevelopment opportunities, including the potential for residential reuse.

The Accelerated Site Completion Program is another mechanism for achieving unrestricted status and closure of sites. Under this program, the Air Force conducted a thorough review of all of their environmental

sites in 2011. In doing so, Chanute identified 12 sites for inclusion in the Accelerated Site Completion Program.

These 12 sites are being rolled into the Performance Based Contract for cleanup and closure to unrestricted use standards.

The most significant effort involves site SS072 (Water Tower 44), which was previously scheduled to be closed with restrictions. Instead the site will be cleaned up to allow unrestricted use. The PBC contractor, Shaw Environmental, will complete the SS072 soil work in March prior to the April refurbishment.

The other 11 sites are former above ground storage tank locations. Some sites will require cleanup activities while other sites will only

require additional documentation supporting previous cleanup actions. Shaw Environmental will begin work on these sites in the summer.

Once cleanup actions under the PBC contract are complete, only six restricted use sites will remain at the former Chanute AFB including four landfills, a former skeet range at the west end of the east-west runway, and a former fire training area in the southeast portion of the former base.

This is an improvement over the PBR contractor's original proposal of 11 restricted use sites and significantly better than the Air Force's earlier projections (FY2007/2008) of approximately two dozen restricted sites.

This is another example of the Air Force's commitment to protect human health and the environment, as well as

## M I L E S T O N E S

**Group 8 feasibility study and proposed plan complete:** The Air Force completed the feasibility study addressing Landfills 1, 2 and 3, Fire Training Area 2 and Area 130 trichloroethylene Disposal Pit in December 2011. The Air Force held a public meeting on Jan. 18 on the proposed plan for Fire Training Area 2 and the Area 130 TCE Disposal Pit. The Air Force presented the preferred cleanup plans for these two sites and requested community input. The public comment period closes Feb. 17. Cleanup plans for these two sites were separated from the landfills to allow for accelerated cleanup. The Air Force plans to include the landfills in a future proposed plan. To view the feasibility study and proposed plan, please visit the Chanute Information Repository in the Rantoul Public Library.

**Group 7 ROD underway:** The Air Force completed the feasibility study and proposed plan in 2010. The Record of Decision is currently under regulatory review. The Air Force and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will complete and sign the ROD by April 2012. The ROD selects the action for four sites (Bldg. 932 Sludge Pit, Bldg. 932 A/C Fuel Training Bladders, Bldg. 937 Airplane Engine Test Stands, and Bldg. 728 Fuel Vehicle Maintenance OWS and UST).

**Group 2 feasibility study under review:** The Air Force is currently reviewing a feasibility study addressing two Group 2 sites: Aircraft Washrack (Near Hangar 2) and Bldg. 809 Former NavAid Station. Completion of the proposed plan and ROD are planned for Spring 2012.

# Infrastructure Assessment Completed

The Air Force provided funding for the Village of Rantoul to hire a contractor, Burns and McDonnell, to assess the sanitary sewer and storm water collection systems, and water distribution system on the former Chanute AFB.

The purpose of the assessment is to determine what structural and operating modifications may be required to “right-size” the system for the Village of Rantoul.

The closing of Chanute AFB significantly reduced the load on the village’s wastewater and water distribution systems. As a result, the systems are oversized and inefficient to operate and maintain.

The Infrastructure Assessment Report will provide the Village a better understanding of the modifications that may be required along with associated costs.

Preliminary findings will be disclosed at the Feb. 16 Restoration Advisory Board meeting. For more information, contact the Village of Rantoul Public Works Department at (217) 893-1661 or visit <http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/afrpa/legacyprac/chanute/index.asp>.

# Mapping our progress

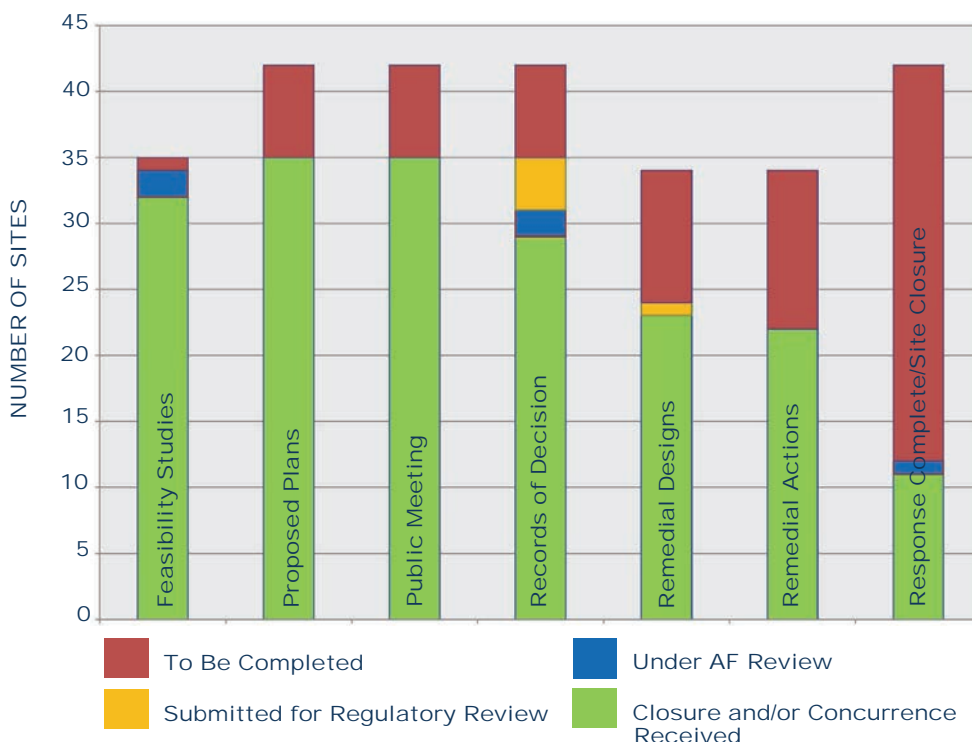
The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act cleanup efforts at the former Chanute AFB began in January 2009. Since then the cleanup has achieved remarkable progress. CERCLA requires the completion of a Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, Proposed Plans, a Public Meeting, a Record of Decision, Remedial Designs and Remedial Actions, all of which culminate with site closure. The chart below illustrates the milestones achieved to-date.

Of the 42 CERCLA sites assigned to the contractor, 10 sites have been closed and 29 have concurrence on a ROD, a major milestone in the CERCLA process. The ROD is significant because it selects the actions that will be taken at a particular site. Once approval of the action is received, the cleanup team may design and implement the actions.

The Performance Based Contract contractor, Shaw Environmental, has also produced Feasibility Studies for 34 sites, Proposed Plans for 35 sites, conducted Public Meetings for 35 sites and developed Remedial Designs for 24 sites.

Overall, the cleanup efforts are well underway and reaching a point of significant completion. The Air Force will continue to work with key stakeholders to complete all 42 CERCLA sites as well as the five non- CERCLA

Former Chanute AFB Remedial Progress  
CERCLA Sites (42)



Air Force Real Property Agency  
2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 121  
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-9821

## February 16 Chanute Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

**RAB Meeting:** 12:00 p.m.

**Location:**

Rantoul Business Center (Former Smith Hall)  
601 S. Century Blvd., Suite 1106

Air Force Real Property Agency  
2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 121  
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-9821  
Toll Free (866) 725-7616  
[www.AFRPA.HQ.AF.MIL](http://www.AFRPA.HQ.AF.MIL)



### Feedback, Comments, and More Information

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