



The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update



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

Water Tower Demolition/ Refurbishment Project Underway

The Water Tower Demolition/Refurbishment project is underway at the former Chanute Air Force Base, and work is progressing ahead of schedule. The Air Force contractor, Environmental Chemical Corporation, began work April 2 and completed demolition of the three water tower structures April 26.

ECC is currently preparing Water Tower 44 for upcoming abrasive blasting operations to remove paint from the interior and exterior. The team has erected the support structure and installed the protective shroud which will be used to capture and collect paint chips and blasting material for proper disposal. The contractor also installed a new ladder, new access ways and added safety upgrades such as railing along the top. The Air Force has also donated the beacon that once sat atop Water Tower 44 to the aviation museum for historical preservation.

"It's amazing that twenty years after base closure, there are still small pieces of base history all around us," said Paul Carroll, Base Environmental Coordinator at the former Chanute AFB. "We're glad the beacon will remain a part of Chanute's history."

From now through August, ECC will remove old paint coatings, apply new ones, and install a permanent safety fence to restrict unauthorized access to the water tower.

With demolition of the other water towers complete, ECC will work through May to retrofit underground piping and remove concrete foundations before the areas are restored to match the surrounding area. The four towers are being demolished/refurbished due to reduced water storage requirements.

Throughout the process, the Air Force and its contractor are adhering to all safety precautions to ensure continued protection of human health and the environment.



Tower 44 (right) is undergoing refurbishment to better serve the Rantoul community, including abrasive blasting the interior (above left) and exterior (above right) of the tower. To help protect the surrounding area, the Air Force's contractor is installing a containment shroud (top) to prevent material from leaving the work zone.



Unrestricted *opportunities*

Water Tower 44 Cleaned to “Unrestricted Use”

As part of the Air Force’s aggressive approach to maximize the number of environmental sites achieving closure, 12 sites at the former Chanute AFB were identified for additional work. Once the additional work at these sites is completed later this year, the affected property will be suitable for “unrestricted use”, meaning there will be no land use controls or redevelopment restrictions on the land.

This is part of the Accelerated Site Completion Program whereby the Air Force conducted a thorough review of all of their environmental sites in 2011. This effort concluded only limited additional work would be required to achieve site closure at these 12 sites.

The land beneath Water Tower 44 is the most significant undertaking. The Air Force’s Performance-Based Remediation contractor, Shaw

Environmental, Inc., finished excavating the required area before the current refurbishment work began in April. Going forward, the land will be clean enough for residential use.

Other sites included in the cleanup are locations of former aboveground storage tanks. Shaw is scheduled to begin work on these sites later this summer.

Chanute In the news

Cleanup is progressing at the former Chanute AFB, and the local media is geared toward keeping residents informed of the status of environmental cleanup. Chanute has been featured in both local television and print media, most recently providing coverage on the water tower demolition and refurbishment progress. For more information about this project, please see the article on pg. 1 of the newsletter.

For additional questions about the Air Force cleanup program, please contact the Air Force Real Property Agency’s Public Affairs hotline at 210-925-0956 or by email at AFRPA.PA@us.af.mil.



Mapping Our Progress

The Air Force and its contractors continue to make progress as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act cleanup efforts continue. As part of the CERCLA process, multiple steps are required to achieve the ultimate goal of Response Complete/Site Closure. The chart and Achieved Milestones provide a snapshot of the current status.

Since the last Restoration Advisory Board meeting in February, the Air Force, Shaw Environmental and Illinois EPA have completed two Feasibility Studies, two Proposed Plans, held two Public Meetings, signed four RODs, approved four Remedial Designs, and initiated one Remedial Action. The team also developed two more RODs and two additional Remedial Designs which will be finalized soon.

Although there are 42 total CERCLA sites at Chanute, 8 of these sites do not require Feasibility Studies, Remedial Designs or Remedial Actions because the Remedial Investigation concluded no further action (NFA) was required at these sites. This NFA decision was documented in a Record of Decision for each site.

All 34 Feasibility Studies are now complete, signaling the end of the investigation and evaluation phases of the environmental cleanup work at the former Chanute AFB. The Air Force will continue to work with its stakeholders to achieve Response Complete/Site Closure at all 42 CERCLA sites.

MILESTONES

Group 2 Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan Complete: The Air Force completed the feasibility study addressing two sites collectively called Group 2. The sites are Aircraft Washrack (Near Hangar 2) (SS066) and Building 809 Former NavAid Station (SS073). The Air Force will hold a public meeting May 16 at the Rantoul Business Center from noon to 1 p.m. to present the Proposed Plan and allow the public to provide input. The Air Force will also host a Question and Answer Session the same day starting at 7 p.m. in the Rantoul Business Center. The Record of Decision for these sites is planned for completion this spring.

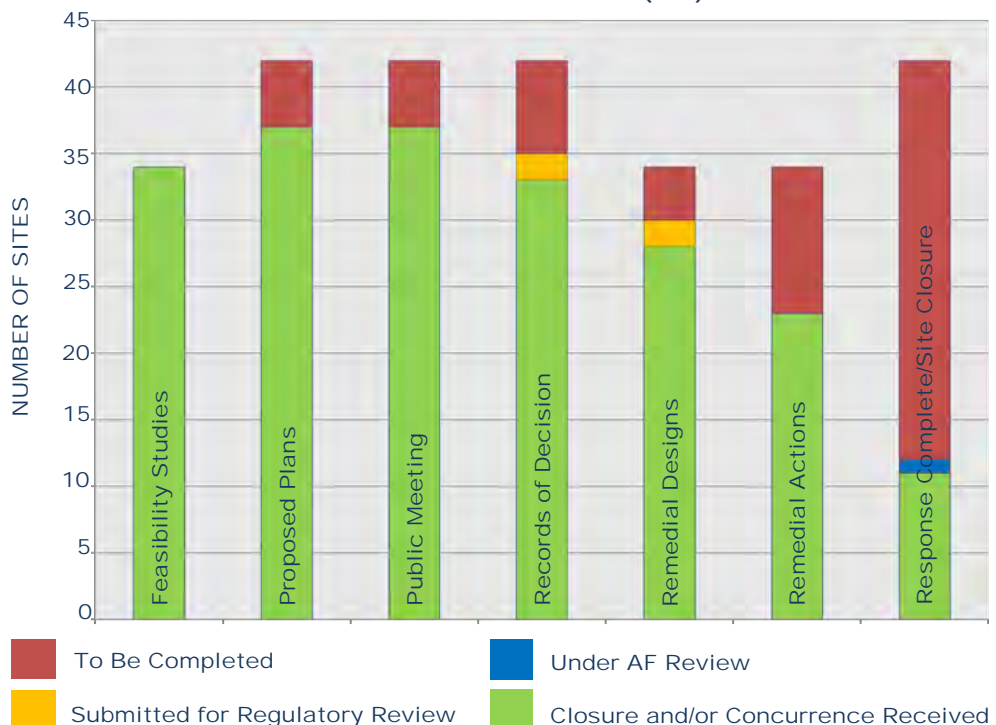
Group 5 Remedial Action Initiated: The Air Force's Performance-Based Remediation contractor, Shaw Environmental, Inc. began cleanup action at site SS074, Building 343 Laundromat, located at the intersection of Dodge Avenue and Enterprise Drive. Actions completed to date include installation of a temporary trailer to be used as a barbershop by Lincoln's Challenge, removal of asbestos containing materials from Building 343, and partial demolition of Building 343. Future work will include excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil and groundwater treatment. Soil excavation will be completed this spring. Groundwater cleanup is projected to continue for up to 4 years.

Group 7 ROD Signed: The Air Force and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency signed the Record of Decision for cleanup of four sites collectively called Group 7. The ROD selects the actions for the following sites: Building 728 Fuel Vehicle Maintenance OWS and UST (ST067), Building 932 Sludge Pit (WP022), Building 932 A/C Fuel Training Bladders (ST037), and Building 937 Airplane Engine Test Stands (SS038).

Group 7 Remedial Action Work Plan Finalized: The Air Force and the Illinois EPA finalized and approved the Remedial Action Work Plan for Group 7 which details how the remedies outlined in the ROD will be executed. Remedial plans for each site include excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soils, and in-situ bioremediation and monitoring of contaminated groundwater.

Group 8 ROD Finalized: The Air Force and Illinois EPA have finalized requirements for the ROD for two Group 8 sites. Signature of the ROD by both the Air Force and Illinois EPA should be complete by June. The ROD selects the actions for the following sites: Fire Training Area 2 (FT021) and Area 130 TCE Disposal Pit (WP080).

Former Chanute AFB Remedial Progress - May 2012
CERCLA Sites (42)



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

May 17 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



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 _____
