



The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update



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

Water Tower Demolition/ Refurbishment Project Nears Completion

Work on the water towers at the former Chanute Air Force Base is nearing completion. The Air Force's contractor, Environmental Chemical Corporation, demolished Towers 120, 122 and 968 in April ahead of schedule.

While blasting away old paint coatings as part of the refurbishment to Tower 44, ECC discovered additional damage to the balcony shelf around the bowl of the tower. They also noted extensive corrosion to several valves, a backflow preventer and an altitude meter at the tower's base, which was not previously identified.

"Safety is our number one priority," said Paul Carroll, Base Environmental Coordinator at the former Chanute AFB. "We needed to thoroughly assess the additional damage to the tower to best determine our next steps. Moving forward, ECC will conduct additional repairs to the tower to ensure it poses no operational or safety risks."

ECC will weld reinforcing plates to strengthen numerous areas of the balcony while replacing the deteriorated piping and valves. The additional work on the tower is projected to be complete in August.

Once work is complete, the tower will be disinfected and placed back into service, ensuring the Village has ample water storage capacity well into the future.



Above: The Air Force considered all safety risks before moving forward with renovations to Tower 44.



To view a video detailing the tower demolition process, please visit the Air Force Real Property Agency's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AFRPA.

ACHIEVED MILESTONES

Group 8 Record of Decision, Remedial Action Work Plan Signed/Approved: The Air Force and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency signed the ROD in June for two sites known collectively as Group 8. The ROD selects the actions for the following sites: Fire Training Area 2 (FT021) and Area 130 Trichloroethylene Disposal Pit (WP080). Both entities also finalized and approved the RAWP which details how each of the remedies outlined in the ROD will be executed. Remedial plans include removal and off-site disposal of contaminated soil and treatment of contaminated groundwater. Once cleanup is complete, the use of FT021 will be restricted to non-residential purposes; however, use of site WP080 will not be restricted.

Group 2 ROD Finalized: The Air Force and the Illinois EPA have finalized requirements for the ROD at two Group 2 sites including the Aircraft Washrack near Hangar 2 (SS066) and the former NavAid Station (SS073). Remedial Actions Plans for SS073 will be included in an amendment to the Group 4 RAWP. There is no further action required

for SS066. Both the ROD and the RAWP are anticipated to be signed and approved in September.



Above: The Air Force's contractor works to backfill the Western Perimeter Ditch at Fire Training Area 2 which is part of Group 8.

Cleanup Moves to Non-CERCLA sites

Air Force Contractor continues base cleanup

The Air Force and its contractor, Shaw Environmental, have begun work on the Group 11 “Non-CERCLA” sites which consist of five sites scattered across the base. These sites, primarily former underground or aboveground storage tank locations, are governed by Illinois state regulations.

Shaw has prepared corrective action plans for two sites. The Air Force projects the remedies for these sites will be in place by the end of September. No cleanup is projected for the other three sites; however, the Air Force will provide documentation of past cleanup activities to the

Illinois EPA for approval before site closure can be achieved. The difference between CERCLA and non-CERCLA sites is primarily based on the type of contaminant. Since these five sites in Group 11 contain only petroleum-related components, they fall outside of CERCLA regulations.

Mapping Our Progress

Progress continues on the 42 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act sites at the former Chanute AFB. 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 response complete or site closure. Both the "Achieved Milestones" section and the below chart indicate the status of cleanup today.

The black bar on the chart indicates the status as of the last newsletter in May. In just three months, the Air Force and its contractor have completed two Records of Decision and submitted two more for regulatory review; finalized two remedial designs; and implemented five remedial actions.

Of the 42 CERCLA sites, eight did not require Feasibility Studies, Remedial Designs or Remedial Actions as noted in the ROD for each site.

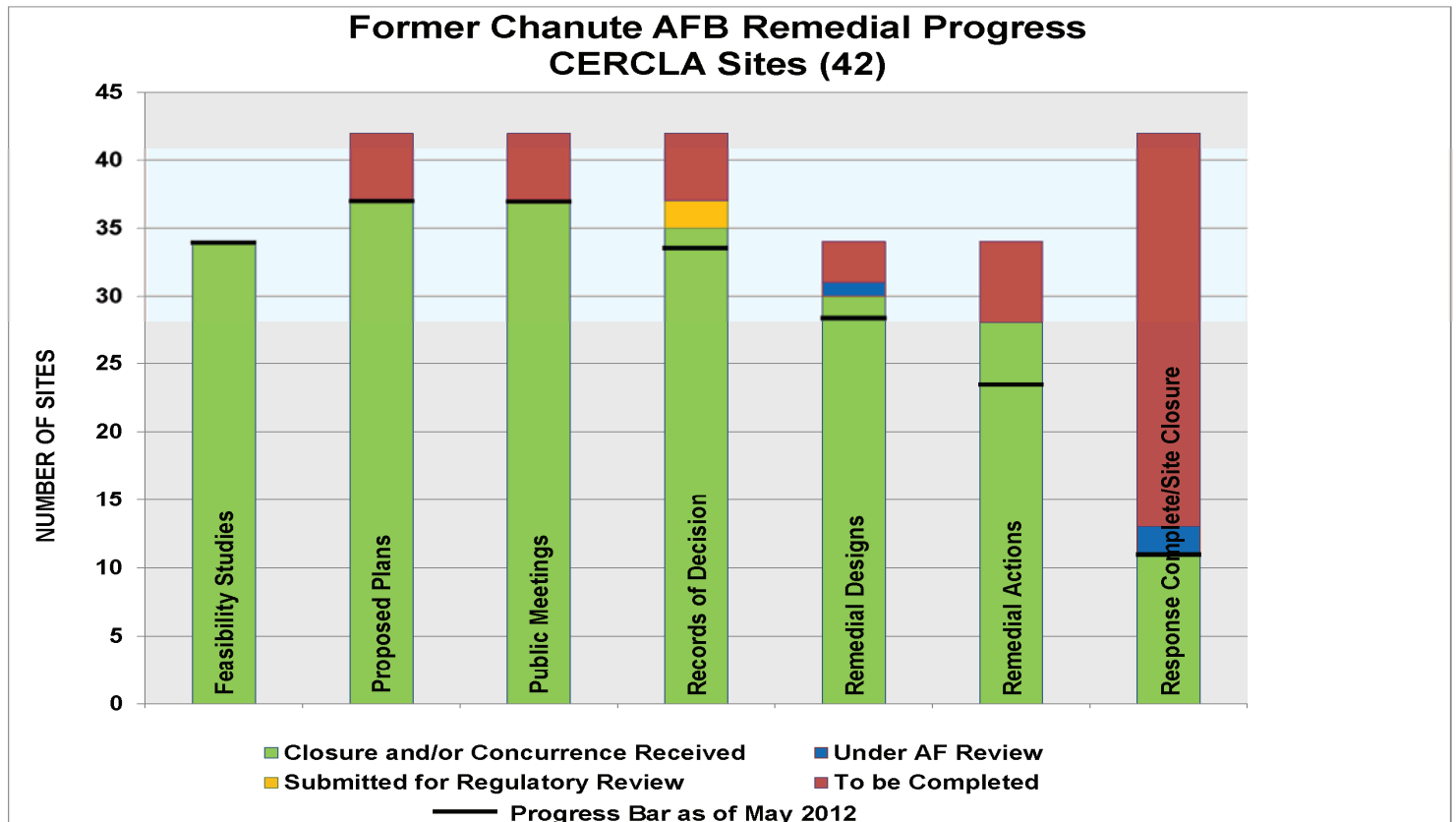
Looking Forward...

As the Air Force cleanup program continues to make progress, residents can expect to see changes in the level of activity at the former base. To date, the Air Force has focused on investigation, alternatives analysis, decision making, and cleanup actions implementation. Currently the last significant cleanup actions are underway at former Fire Training Area 2 (FT021).

Once this effort is completed in August/September, on-site activity will diminish and the program will transition into a maintenance or "operations and monitoring" mode. This mode will require the Air Force to conduct periodic sampling of groundwater monitoring wells and related reporting. This sampling will monitor cleanup of the groundwater contamination with the ultimate goal of site closure.

For more information about the cleanup program at Chanute, please visit their webpage on AFRPA's website at <http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/afropa/legacybrac/chanute/index.asp>.

The Air Force Real Property Agency's Public Affairs team is also available to answer questions about the status of cleanup. They can be reached at afropa.pa@us.af.mil or 210-925-0956.



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August 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

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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.
- 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 _____
