Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Air Force not cleaning up Leon Creek?

Leon Creek is an urban creek with contributing sources that can affect water and sediment quality both upstream and downstream from the former Kelly AFB. Historical trends, as well as sampling of reference creeks (Medina River, Medio Creek and Salado Creek) are evaluated to detect anything out of the ordinary. While certain chemicals may exceed Texas Water Quality Standards, detections have not shown these chemicals to exceed human health standards. Based on the Ecological Risk Assessment, approved by the TCEQ in November 2005, Leon Creek is protective to ecological receptors. Leon Creek is not an actual site where any prior industrial activity occurred, current conditions do not impact human health, and federal and state regulators do not require the Air Force to cleanup Leon Creek.

I want to evaluate what source areas of on-base contamination are contributing to plumes in my neighborhood.

The January report contains a figure entitled “Basewide Groundwater Potentiometric Map” which shows current groundwater directional flow for all areas

Where can I access these reports?

Once approved by the TCEQ, Semiannual Compliance Plan Reports are available online at https://afrpaar.afrpa.lackland.af.mil/ar/docsearch.aspx. Also, copies of these reports are available in the Information Repository at the San Antonio Central Library, 600 Soledad, San Antonio, TX 78205, in the government document section on the 2nd floor.

I’m concerned about health risks associated with contamination caused by the former Kelly AFB activities.

The Semiannual Compliance Plan Reports evaluate environmental conditions only. For health-related inquiries, please contact the Public Center for Environmental Health. The Air Force contributes funding to support the PCEH to conduct health studies, monitor and document local and regional public health issues related to potential exposure to environmental contamination related to past practices at the former Kelly AFB, and to develop strategies for evaluating possible adverse health outcomes. The PCEH can be reached by calling (210) 532-5765.

I would like to find out the current status of open RCRA-regulated sites. Which report should I reference?

The July report focuses on open RCRA-regulated sites.

ABOUT AFRPA

The Air Force Real Property Agency oversees the environmental cleanup activities at former Air Force bases throughout the United States. Our goal is to complete cleanup actions needed to protect human health and the environment and to transfer property for reuse. AFRPA also plays a key role in property reuse/privatization and serves as the Air Force liaison supporting interim property leases.

For more information, please call our public information line toll-free at 1-866-725-7617, visit us on the web at www.afrpa.hq.af.mil or mail us at:

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Understanding the Semiannual Compliance Plan
A User’s Guide

What is the Semiannual Compliance Plan Report?

The former Kelly Air Force Base environmental cleanup program is currently regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality under the requirements of Compliance Plan CP-50310 and Permit Number HW-50310.

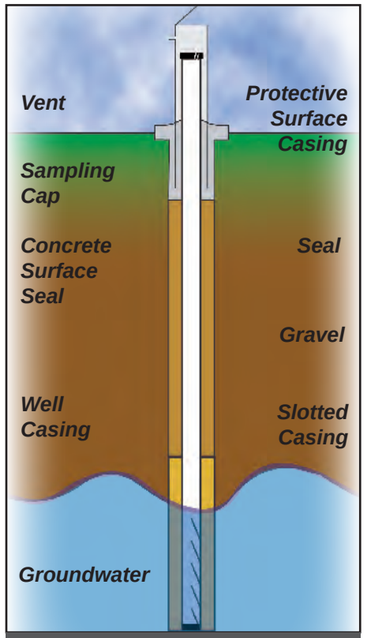
The compliance plan and permit, which were finalized in 1998 (and renewed Feb. 2009), require the Air Force to conduct corrective action and groundwater monitoring programs to address contamination in the shallow groundwater zone.

The compliance plan and permit also require the Air Force to close four Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-regulated units and investigate solid waste management units (SWMUs) or sites under applicable regulatory programs. Of the four RCRA regulated units, only two sites remain open (Site E-3, which was a chemical evaporation pit in Zone 2 and Site S-8, which was a former automated engine parts cleaning facility in Zone 3). The compliance plan requires the Air Force to submit two semiannual reports covering specific activities.

Engineer analyzes groundwater collected as part of the sampling process.

First Semiannual Compliance Plan Report

- Due to TCEQ in July of each year (covers data from prior six months)
- Reports water level measurements (gauging) and sampling performed in January of groundwater monitoring wells for the two open RCRA-regulated units
- Leon Creek assessment
- Reports basewide gauging activities performed in March
- Determines if cleanup systems are working



Graphical representation of a well used to sample and monitor the shallow groundwater.

Second Semiannual Compliance Plan Report

- Due to TCEQ in January of each year (covers data from prior six months)
- Gauging and sampling of basewide groundwater monitoring wells to evaluate the condition of the shallow groundwater
- Monitoring and sampling of monitoring wells specific to the two RCRA-regulated units
- Leon Creek assessment with analysis of fish tissue sampling
- Determines if cleanup systems are working

Reporting Requirements

In the first section of each report, a compliance plan checklist details specific reporting requirements, and the location within the report where the information is located, where applicable. Additionally, the second part of the table summarizes modifications to the compliance plan, both complete and pending actions.

Three Basic Sections of Each Report

1. Groundwater Level Measurements (Gauging)

In order to evaluate the current conditions of the shallow groundwater, it is necessary to determine the depth to groundwater in monitoring wells and actively-pumping recovery wells across the base and adjacent off-base areas. In times of drought or high amounts of rainfall, the water level can fluctuate.

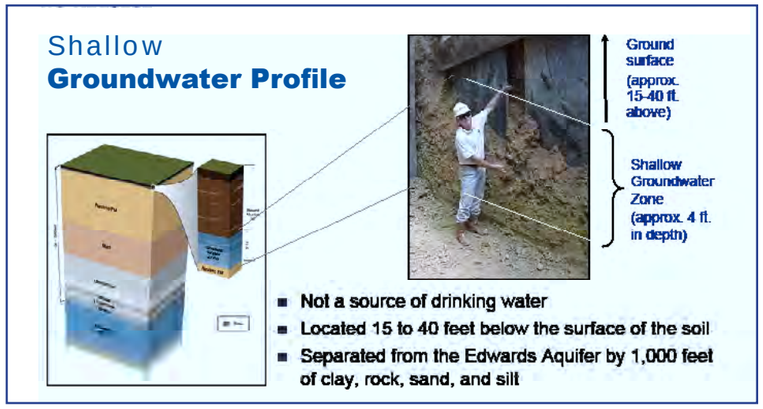
The shallow groundwater zone typically ranges from less than one foot to 40 feet below the ground surface. A change in water levels can impact the amount of contaminants found in the groundwater, and thus the amount of contaminants flowing through remediation systems. Groundwater in the main portion of the base generally flows toward Leon Creek. Groundwater along the eastern side of the former base and in the vicinity of Zone 4 generally flows toward Six Mile Creek.

2. Groundwater Assessment

Groundwater sampling is conducted to evaluate conditions in the shallow groundwater zone beneath the former Kelly AFB and off-site areas adjacent to the former base.

The July report focuses on the two RCRA-regulated units which are still open and the January report takes a more basewide approach.

The former Kelly AFB has historically been subdivided into five groundwater zones (Zones 1 through 5). Submittal of modifications for Zones 2, 3, 4 and 5 further grouped these Zones into 11 waste management areas (WMAs).



Groundwater assessments at each site reported evaluates the presence of various chemicals of concern, groundwater protection standards (GWPS) for each chemical, and the effectiveness of relevant treatment systems in place. Although different chemicals of concern exist in various zones, the following main groups are assessed during the groundwater assessment:

- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs)
- Total metals
- Pesticides
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs)

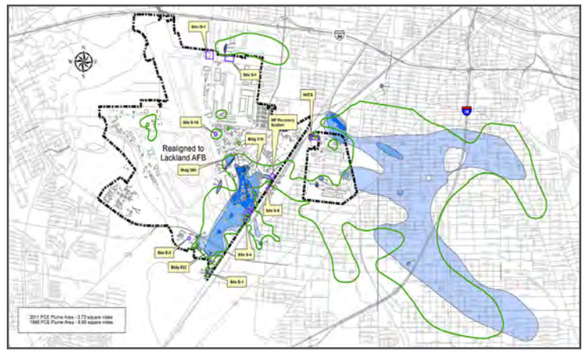
3. Leon Creek Assessment

The Leon Creek monitoring program was initiated to document the physical, chemical and biological conditions of the creek upstream, adjacent to and downstream of the former Kelly AFB. Assessment activities include surface water and sediment sampling, surface water elevation and flow measurements.

Scientists sampling Leon Creek

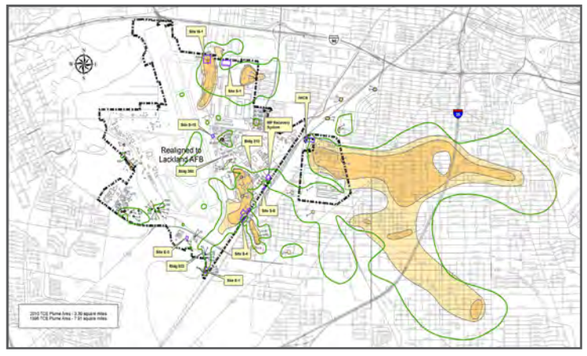
The January report also includes the results of collection and analysis of fish tissue samples.

PCE 2011 Plume Reduction



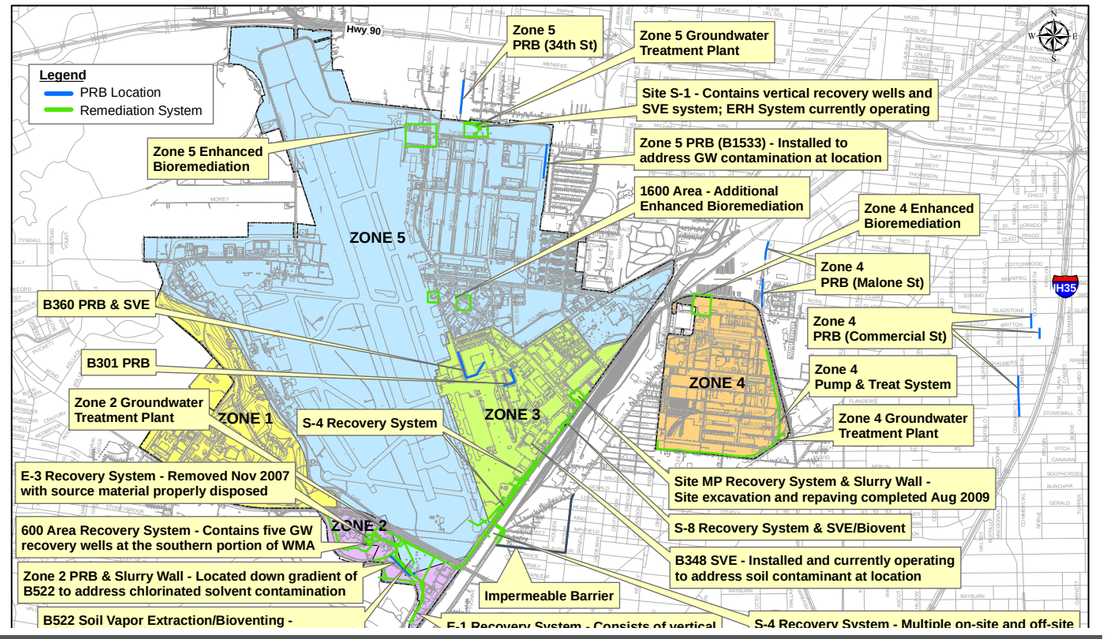
Map depicts extent and concentration of the PCE plume. The bold green line identifies the original boundary in 1998

TCE 2011 Plume Reduction



Map depicts extent and concentration of the TCE plume. The bold green line identifies the original boundary in 1998.

Remediation Systems / Processes May 2011



The green shapes identify the location of cleanup systems