

# Fact Sheet

## Groundwater Record of Decision

November 2006

This Fact Sheet explains the current status of the Record of Decision for cleanup of Volatile Organic Compounds in groundwater at the former McClellan Air Force Base.

### Interim Record of Decision

In 1995, an Interim-Record of Decision (IROD) for containment of the groundwater Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) plume was signed by the Air Force, U.S. EPA and the State of California. This IROD established pump and treat technology as the the remedy for VOCs at McClellan.

### Dispute

In March, 2004, the Air Force submitted a Draft Final Record of Decision (ROD) for the cleanup of VOCs in groundwater at McClellan to federal and state regulatory agencies for review. The State of California and U.S. EPA felt the ROD did not comply with cleanup requirements and invoked formal dispute of the document.

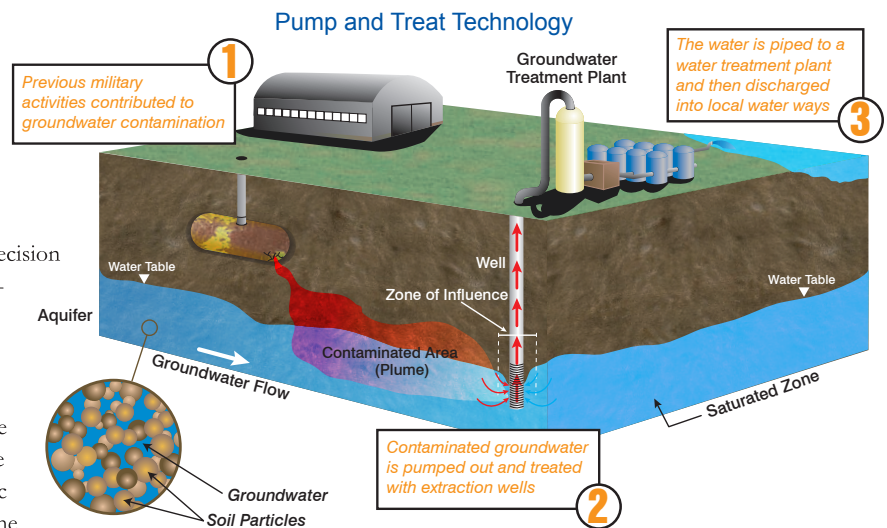
The remedy the Air Force presented as its preferred cleanup alternative in the 2004 Proposed Plan was cleanup and containment of the entire groundwater plume, using pump and treat (explained by the graphic to the right) and soil vapor extraction. This essentially was the same remedy outlined in the 1995 Interim ROD, but with updated information to project estimated time and cost to cleanup the VOCs in the groundwater. The estimated time and cost to cleanup was presented as potentially reaching 100s of years and up to \$500 million dollars. These estimates were based on the knowledge that the groundwater tables were no longer dropping, and even potentially rising.

The Draft and Draft Final Groundwater VOC ROD (Nov. 2004) that was disputed by the State and U.S. EPA proposed groundwater containment at the borders of the former McClellan base boundaries, as opposed to each individual plume.

### Dispute resolution process

The Air Force, State of California and U.S. EPA began the dispute resolution process, and established a technical working group to resolve the technical issues and reach an acceptable remedy.

This working group was comprised of Air Force, regulatory agency members, and regional groundwater stakeholders, such as local water purveyors.



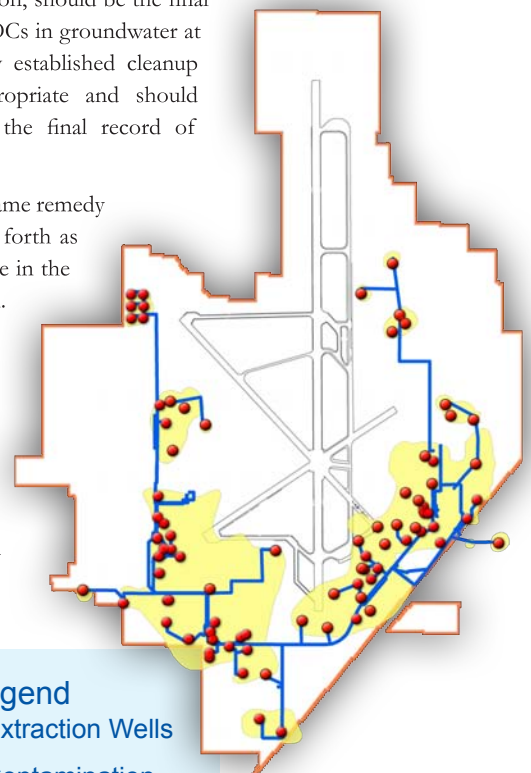
The key technical requirement for reaching agreement on the final groundwater remedy was the development of a new groundwater model. This working group met several times throughout 2005 and 2006.

Since the entire Interim ROD cleanup treatment system was in place by this time, the technical team had better, more updated information to use when developing the new models.

### Resolution

Agreement was reached in late summer of 2006 that the current treatment system Interim ROD, along with soil vapor extraction, should be the final cleanup remedy for VOCs in groundwater at McClellan. Previously established cleanup levels would be appropriate and should be incorporated into the final record of decision.

This resolution is the same remedy that the Air Force put forth as the preferred alternative in the 2004 Proposed Plan. The difference is that with newer data, the new model estimates cleanup will take approximately 55 years, leading to substantially lower costs than previously anticipated.



#### Legend

- Groundwater Extraction Wells
- Groundwater Contamination
- Conveyance Pipelines

### Timeline

- 1995** Groundwater (GW) Interim ROD established pump and treat as containment remedy
- 1999** GW Feasibility Study evaluated different cleanup options for GW
- 2000** GW VOC Proposed Plan disputed, resolution established cleanup levels
- 2004** GW VOC Feasibility Study Addendum accounted for change in groundwater levels
- 2004** GW VOC Proposed Plan / public comment period proposed Interim ROD as final remedy
- 2004** Draft GW VOC ROD proposed containment at former base boundaries
- 2005** Draft Final GW VOC ROD disputed by State and U.S. EPA
- 2005/2006** Dispute Resolution working group developed new models
- Aug 2006** Agreement on technical issues 2004 Proposed Plan remedy should be final remedy
- Sep 2006** Draft GW ROD
- Nov 2006** Public Comment Period - see back page
- Winter 2006/2007** Groundwater ROD finalization

AFRPA/Western Region  
3411 Olson Street  
McClellan, CA 95652

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Joseph Clark  
AFRPA, *Community Relations*  
(916) 643-1250 Ext. 257  
joseph.clark@afropa.pentagon.af.mil

Kris Escarda  
Cal-EPA/DTSC, *Public Participation Specialist*  
(916) 255-6683  
kescarda@dtsc.ca.gov

Jose Garcia  
U.S. EPA, *Community Involvement Coordinator*  
(415) 972-3331  
(800) 231-3075  
garcia.jose@epa.gov

**Environmentally sound:** McClellan's successful, continuing cleanup has enabled its  
simultaneous transformation to a thriving business park.

### The Air Force Values Community Input

The Air Force would like your input on the groundwater cleanup at McClellan.

The Air Force would like the public to review this Fact Sheet, as well as the 2004 Proposed Plan and provide input or comments. Comments will be addressed in the Final Record of Decision, which is anticipated to be completed in the winter of 2006/2007.

The public comment period will be from Nov. 18 through Dec. 18, 2006.

Documents listed to the right are recommended for potential commenters. The Air Force will announce the completion of the Record of Decision once it is finalized and signed, by placing a public notice in the Sacramento Bee.

For more information or if you have questions, please call Joseph Clark at (916) 643-1250 ext. 257, or email at joseph.clark@afropa.pentagon.af.mil.

### 30-Day Public Comment Period

(Nov. 18, 2006 - Dec. 18, 2006)

Submit comments to:  
AFRPA WREC  
Community Relations  
3411 Olson Street  
McClellan, CA 95652

or email: joseph.clark@afropa.pentagon.af.mil

### Supporting Documents

Groundwater Interim Record of Decision  
Basewide VOC Feasibility Study  
Basewide VOC Feasibility Study Addendum  
Proposed Plan for Cleanup of VOCs in Groundwater

These documents can be found at the website below, or by visiting the McClellan Administrative Record located at 3411 Olson Street, McClellan. Call 643-1250 ext. 239 for an appointment.

www.afropa.hq.af.mil/mcclellan/mcclellan.html 64354