



Snapshot

Former Reese AFB Making Progress in PFAS Investigation

Current as of 31 July 2022

What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances are a group of synthetic, fluorinated organic compounds used in many industrial and consumer products. In 1970, the Department of the Air Force began using aqueous film forming foam, which contains PFAS, to extinguish petroleum fires to save people and protect property.

Air Force Response to PFAS

The DAF is taking aggressive measures at the former Reese Air Force Base, Texas, and Air Force-wide, to ensure communities have safe drinking water. The DAF is using a comprehensive approach — identify, respond, prevent — to assess potential risks to drinking water and take action to protect human health. The DAF is committed to working with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and community leaders to protect human health on and around former Reese AFB. The DAF complies with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or RCRA, permit issued by TCEQ for all environmental restoration requirements at Reese. While drinking water is being cleaned up at individual wells, the DAF is also taking a comprehensive action to identify the nature and extent of the contaminated groundwater. This will help in delineation, mitigation, and cleanup of the contaminated portions of the aquifer, as required.

Reese PFAS Investigation

In 2014, the DAF began assessing potential PFAS contamination stemming from historical AFFF use at the former base. Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act process, the Air Force conducted a Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection. SI fieldwork confirmed contamination exceeded TCEQ protective concentration levels. The DAF will complete remaining investigations in compliance with the RCRA permit.

Affected Property Assessment

The DAF has begun an Affected Property Assessment, the next phase of investigation in the RCRA process. During the APA, the DAF is delineating the nature and extent of contamination, identifying migration pathways, and determining if any response actions are necessary.

Protective Concentration Levels

Per the RCRA permit, the DAF adheres to the Texas Risk Reduction Program. Under the TRRP, TCEQ published PCLs for 16 PFAS, including PFOS and PFOA, in soil and groundwater.

The DAF also adheres to the Environmental Protection Agency 2016 Lifetime Health Advisory levels of 70 parts per trillion for PFOS and PFOA in drinking water because the federal threshold is more conservative than TCEQ's PCLs.

PFAS compounds with PCLs	GW (ppt)
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	560
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	290
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	290
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	93
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	560
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	34,000
Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	370
Perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDoA)	290
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	93
Perfluorotetradecanoic acid (PFTeA)	290
Perfluorotridecanoic acid (PFTrDA)	290
Perfluoroundecanoic acid (PFUnA)	290
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	71,000
Perfluorodecanesulfonic acid (PFDS)	290
Perfluorooctane sulfonamide (PFOSA)	290
Perfluoropentanoic Acid (PFPeA)	93



What will I see?
You might see sampling crews in neighborhoods. They're gathering groundwater samples.



IDENTIFY

- PA/SI identified GW impacts above HA/ TCEQ PCLs at **10** areas and soil impacts at **8** areas.
- November 2017: based on SI sampling, began sampling DW sources within the study area.
- April 2018: DAF implemented quarterly DW monitoring schedule.



- Providing alternative DW to all residences where PFAS concentrations in private/public wells exceeded the HA and/or TCEQ PCLs.
- Installing treatment systems at impacted wells; **241** point of entry treatment systems installed to date.
- Coordinating with the City of Lubbock to build municipal water lines to affected homes in city limits under a Cooperative Agreement.
- Maintaining and sampling treatment systems to ensure drinking water criteria are met.

RESPOND

PREVENT

- The Air Force discontinued AFFF use following base closure in September 1997.



Completed to date

Installed **302** new monitoring wells on and around the former Reese AFB during SI and APA fieldwork activities.

Collected a total of **1,556** soil samples, **478** groundwater samples, **98** sediment samples and **65** surface water samples during SI and APA fieldwork activities.

Sampled a total of **533** DW wells: identified **255** private wells and **four** municipal wells that exceed the HA and/or TCEQ PCLs.



Milestones



June 2019

Public Meeting and finished installing individual treatment systems

June 2020

Initiated Phase I APA investigation fieldwork

Mar. 2021

Continued APA Phase II investigation fieldwork

Mar. 2018 - Ongoing

Recurring DW sampling and treatment system O&M

Sept. 2019

Awarded contract for APA investigation

Sept. 2020

Awarded the remainder of the APAR investigation

Dec. 2022

Submit APAR to TCEQ

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