



NEWS RELEASE

United States Air Force

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Air Force transfers 18 acres at former Wurtsmith AFB to Township

SAN ANTONIO, TX. – This spring the Air Force officially transferred 18 acres of the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base to the Charter Township of Oscoda Michigan (Township), the local redevelopment authority taking charge of revitalizing the former base. The transfer included a railway spur, as well as the Arrow Street pump and treatment plant. This property is the most recent to be conveyed to the Township under the terms of a 1996 no-cost Economic Development Conveyance (EDC) that was amended in 2000 and 2005. The Department of Defense established no-cost EDCs in 1994 to facilitate the reutilization of closed military installations by impacted local communities.

“While the actual acreage of these transactions was relatively small, their transfer was a significant milestone for Wurtsmith,” said David Belyea, Site Manager. “The recent transfer was made up of multiple, small parcels that had environmental restrictions as well as the two largest environmental remediation systems on the former base. Having received regulatory approval for site closure, these transactions form the basis for transferring all the remaining environmentally suitable property.”

While the Air Force is conveying the land to the Township, some environmental

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Wurtsmith Transfer – Add 2

activities will continue for several more years. The Air Force will retain environmental systems to extract and treat contaminated groundwater. These systems will continue to be operated by the Air Force for ten or more years to complete the environmental cleanup.

Once an active installation of over 4,600 acres, since Wurtsmith's closure in 1993, ninety percent of the property has been transferred to the local community. The remaining 412 acres is expected to transfer by 2011.

The Air Force Real Property Agency is responsible for remediation and property transfer at 40 former Air Force installations throughout the U.S. under the Base Realignment and Closure program. At the height of the BRAC process, AFRPA managed 87,000 acres, or about 137 square miles of property. In the two decades since the first BRAC in 1988, the agency has transferred 88 percent, or more than 116 square miles of land – twice the area of Washington, D.C. – back to communities for public use. Throughout the transfer process, the Air Force remains committed to protecting human health and the environment.