



Fact Sheet

To the North East West Industrial Operable Unit Soil Proposed Plan

A Publication of the Environmental Restoration Program

Travis Air Force Base, California

January 2006

INSIDE

Editor's Note:

This fact sheet to the North, East, West Industrial Operable Unit (NEWIOU) Soil Proposed Plan is devoted to proposed changes in the cleanup strategies for 12 contaminated soil sites on Travis AFB. The original 1998 Soil Proposed Plan addressed 18 contaminated sites within the NEWIOU. The base has revised its soil cleanup proposals for 12 of the 18 sites, based on updated risk assessments and field study.

Site Table: This table lists all NEWIOU sites and shows the sites for which changes in soil cleanup strategies are proposed **3**

What Can You Do?:

*We would like your input on these changes to the Travis AFB soil cleanup program, and there are several convenient ways to make your opinion count..... **5***

Public Comments Welcome

As a member of the local community, you have from **January 16 to February 15** to comment on the proposed changes to the soil cleanup strategies for Travis Air Force Base. A public meeting to discuss these changes will be held on **January 26, 2006** at 7 p.m. in the Office of the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors, 3690 Hilborn Road, Fairfield, CA.



Hangar at Work: Aircraft maintenance and repair takes place in a number of hangars on Travis AFB. Known as Facility 811 (site designation SD034), this is one of 12 Travis AFB soil sites that does not need an active cleanup remedy to protect human health and the environment.

New Soil Cleanup Proposals

Travis Air Force Base (AFB) is requesting public comments on a proposal to change its original strategies for cleaning up soil contamination at 12 of 18 sites within a part of the base known as the North, East, and West Industrial Operable Unit (NEWIOU). An operable unit is a geographical area that contains sites with common features, such as types of industrial processes or similar contaminants. Travis AFB and federal and state regulatory agencies will make the final cleanup decisions for these sites in a Soil Record of Decision (ROD). All comments will be considered and responded to in a Responsiveness Summary in the ROD. This fact sheet is a supplement to the original Proposed plan and describes

the Air Force's changes to its proposed options and the rationale for them.

The base encourages interested community members to provide comments on the proposed changes that are described in this fact sheet during a 30-day public comment period that runs from **January 16, 2006 to February 15, 2006**. A public meeting to discuss these proposals will be held on **Thursday, January 26, 2006** at the Northern Solano County Board of Realtors Office in Fairfield. Comments on the proposed changes can be submitted to either the Air Force or the California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control during the public comment period, using any method described in the sidebar on page 5 of this fact sheet. A map of the public

Visit our Environmental Restoration Program web site at <http://public.travis.amc.af.mil/pages/enviro>



Fact Sheet

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This *Fact Sheet to the NEWIOU Soil Proposed Plan* is a publication of the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron's Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). It is designed to inform and educate the public about the base's soil cleanup program. Contents expressed herein are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. Additional information about the base's ongoing environmental cleanup program can be obtained from the public website at <http://public.travis.af.mil/pages/enviro>. Questions and comments about the program may be sent to this address:

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Questions and comments about the environmental web site may be sent to:

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Evaluation of Cleanup Options

To come up with a proposed cleanup solution, the Air Force considers many different cleanup options. Then, the alternatives are compared by asking the following nine questions:

1. Does it protect human health and the environment?
2. Does it comply with State and Federal requirements?
3. Is it permanent or effective over the long-term?
4. Does it reduce the harmfulness of contamination?
5. Is it effective in the short-term?
6. Is it technically feasible?
7. What is the cost?
8. Do the State Regulatory Agencies accept it?
9. Does the community accept it?

meeting location is on the last page.

In 1998, the Air Force described its original approach to clean up a total of 18 soil, sediment, and surface water sites in the *NEWIOU Soil, Sediment, and Surface Water (SSSW) Proposed Plan*. The Proposed Plan described the contamination at each site, several potential alternatives available to clean up this contamination, and the Air Force's proposed cleanup options.

The Air Force is also preparing a Supplemental Handout that provides more rationale for selecting preferred alternatives.

Copies of the Proposed Plan, the handout, and this fact sheet are available for public review at the Mitchell Memorial Library on Travis AFB, the Fairfield-Suisun Community Library, the Vacaville Public Library, and on the Travis AFB environmental restoration web site at <http://public.travis.af.mil/pages/enviro>. Community members can also ask for a copy of these documents by contacting Mr. Mark Smith, the Travis AFB Environmental Restoration Program Manager, at (707) 424-3062.

WHY CHANGE NOW?

Originally, soil excavation and disposal was the proposed remedy for 16 of the 18 sites, and monitored natural attenuation (MNA) was the proposed remedy for the two remaining sites. MNA is a cleanup strategy that relies on naturally-occurring chemical and biological processes to break down contaminants. The current proposal is to take no action or to use Land Use Controls (LUCs) to address soil contamination at 12 sites and to excavate soil at the remaining 6 sites. A LUC is an administrative or physical measure to restrict future land use of a parcel of property. Examples of administrative LUCs to prevent the digging of contaminated soil are (1) the completion and approval of a digging request permit and (2) restrictions on property use that are contained in property records that are used for project planning. Examples of physical LUCs are a warning sign and a fence around contaminated soil.

These proposed changes to the original cleanup options are based on updated risk assessments. A risk assessment is a scientific evaluation of the ways that contaminants can enter an organism and the potential harm that they can cause. Environmental investigations routinely carry out a human health risk assessment and an ecological risk assessment to ensure that the cleanup program manager has enough information to select cleanup actions that protect people as well as the environment (local plants, animals, and groundwater).

After the NEWIOU SSSW Proposed Plan was issued in 1998, Travis AFB set aside the selection of appropriate soil cleanup actions for the NEWIOU sites and focused on cleanup issues on the western side of the base. Over the next six years, the level of risk assessment knowledge increased; and our understanding of the potential impacts to local species such as the long-billed dowitcher, the red-tailed hawk, and the river otter improved. Additional soil and sediment sampling and laboratory analysis also demonstrated whether contaminant concentrations change in the environment over time. The Air Force and the regulatory agencies used this information to determine that the potential risk posed by the contaminants was not as great as originally assumed, that excavation was not required at many of the NEWIOU sites, and that the proposed cleanup strategies protect people and the environment.

Table 1 shows the 18 NEWIOU soil sites and the previous and current proposed soil cleanup options.

SITE DESCRIPTIONS

The following sections describe the 12 soil sites with revised proposed options and the supporting rationale for the changes. Each site has a site identifier for programming and budgeting purposes and is shown in parentheses. Cleanup costs estimates were taken from the *NEWIOU Feasibility Study*. This report presented all possible cleanup options, evaluated each option's ability to successfully

TABLE 1: NEWIOU Previous and Current Proposed Options

Site Description	Site Identifier	Original Proposed Option	Current Proposed Option
Storm Sewer Right-of-Way (includes Main Branch of Union Creek)	SD001	18 - Excavation	18 - Excavation
Fire Training Area 1	FT002	18 - Excavation	16 - No Action
Fire Training Area 2	FT003	18 - Excavation	18 - Excavation
Fire Training Area 3	FT004	18 - Excavation	18 - Excavation
Fire Training Area 4	FT005	18 - Excavation	18 - Excavation
Base Landfill No. 2	LF007	18 - Excavation	18 - Excavation
Sludge Disposal Site	OT010	18 - Excavation	16 - No Action
Solvent Spill Area, Facilities 550/552, and 1832	SS015	18 - Excavation	17 - Land Use Controls. See Note 1
Oil Spill Area, Facilities 11,13/14, 20, 42/1941, 139/144, and sections of Storm Sewer Right-of-Way	SS016	18 - Excavation	17 - Land Use Controls
Oxidation Pond Site	WP017	18 - Excavation	16 - No Action
Monitoring Well 329 Area	SS029	18 - Excavation	16 - No Action
Monitoring Well 269 Area	SS030	18 - Excavation	16 - No Action
Monitoring Wells 107 and 246	ST032	18 - Excavation	17 - Land Use Controls
Storm Sewer System B (includes West Branch of Union Creek), Facility 810, Facility 1917, and South Gate Area	SD033	18 - Excavation	18 - Excavation
Facility 811	SD034	17 - Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA)	16 - No Action
Facilities 818 and 819	SS035	18 - Excavation	16 - No Action
Facilities 872, 873, and 876	SD036	17 - MNA	16 - No Action
Sanitary Sewer System; Facilities 837, 838, 919, 977, and 981; Area G Ramp; and Ragsdale/V Area	SD037	18 - Excavation	17 - Land Use Controls

Note 1: Excavation has already been completed as a soil removal action in 2003.

Note 2: Shaded rows indicate those sites where the proposed options have not changed.

Note 3: Page 2 of the 1998 NEWIOU Soil Proposed Plan contains a map of all NEWIOU sites.

clean up each site, and compared each option based on nine cleanup criteria (see bottom sidebar on page 2). The cost estimates are presented to give you an idea of the fiscal impact of these revised cleanup proposals.

Former Fire Training Area No. 1 (Site FT002)

FT002 consists of former Fire Training Area No. 1, located in a 10-acre open grassy field in the central part of the base. Waste fuels and other combustible liquids were burned in fire training exercises from 1943 to

1950. The primary soil contaminants are lead and petroleum products.

The Air Force has revised its proposed alternative for this site from excavation to no action, based on the results of the updated risk assessments. The original cost of soil excavation at this site was approximately \$150,000.

Former Sludge Disposal Site (Site OT010)

OT010 is a 16-acre open grassy field in the southeastern portion of the Base. The field adjacent to a sewage

treatment plant was reportedly used for sewage sludge disposal, though this was not confirmed and no source area was identified. The sewage treatment plant operated from the 1950's to the late 1970's. Petroleum is the primary contaminant at this site.

The Air Force revised its proposed alternative for this site from excavation to no action, based on the results of the updated risk assessments. The original cost of soil excavation at this site was approximately \$500,000.

Solvent Spill Area, Facilities 550/552, and 1832 (Site SS015)

SS015 consists of approximately 1.4 acres of open grassy fields east of Facility 550, a building previously used to remove paint from aircraft. The site bordered an asphalt driveway and Facility 552, a fenced, bermed, concrete pad constructed in 1964 that was used as a temporary hazardous waste collection point. Stored wastes included paint, chromic acid, and solvents from aircraft maintenance operations at Facility 550. Facility 550 contained a corrosion control facility that treated and painted aircraft parts and support equipment. A metals-processing shop in Facility 550 used cadmium in its plating operations. Facility 1832 is a 15,000-gallon Oil-Water-Separator that received liquids generated at a wash rack on the aircraft parking apron.

The primary soil contaminants were metals and petroleum products. In 2003, the Environmental Flight removed the contaminated soil to support a 2004 construction project that demolished Facilities 550 and 552 and built an office building, a fuel truck maintenance facility, and a large concrete truck parking area. The soil removal project successfully cleaned up the site contaminants, and it was agreed that the site needed no further action.

However, during the demolition of Facility 550 in 2004, cadmium was found in construction debris from the concrete flooring of the former plating shop. After disposal of the contaminated construction debris, sample analysis of the remaining soil found residual cadmium concentrations that could pose a potential risk to base personnel. As a result of schedule and funding considerations, the construction project was completed, and the cadmium residue is now 2 feet below a concrete truck-parking area. The proposed administrative LUCs (digging permit requests and property records) will be used to keep track of the cadmium residue.



Oxidation Ponds: Oxidation ponds such as this one were used in the treatment of domestic and industrial wastes in the 1950's through the 1970's. Concentrations of chemicals in the local soil are low, so no action is needed to protect site workers, plants and animals at this site.

Oil Spill Area, Facilities 11, 13/14, 20, 42/1941, 139/144, and Selected Sections of Storm Sewer Right of Way (Site SS016)

SS016 consists of facilities in the central portion of the base that support flight line service equipment repair, aircraft engine repair, fuel storage, aircraft wash racks, and vehicle maintenance. A variety of solvents, hydraulic fluids, oils, fuels, and other materials are associated with these activities. The primary contaminants in the 1-acre contaminated soil area are petroleum products and metals.

The Air Force revised its proposed action for this site from excavation to LUCs, based on the results of the updated risk assessments. This revision will reduce the project cost at this site by over \$1,000,000. The proposed administrative LUCs will be used to keep track of the contaminants.

Oxidation Ponds (Site WP017)

WP017 consists of several sewage treatment plant oxidation ponds that cover about 34 acres in the southern part of the base. The treatment plant processed both domestic and industrial wastes from the 1950's until the late 1970's, after which wastes were transferred to the Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District for treatment. The primary soil contaminants are metals, pesticides and Polychlorinated Biphe-

nyls (PCBs).

The Air Force revised its proposed action at this site from excavation to no action, based on the results of the updated risk assessments. This revision will reduce the project cost at this site by over \$2,000,000.

MW329x29 Area (Site SS029)

SS029 consists of approximately 5.5 acres around monitoring well MW329x29 in the southern part of the base, just south of the runway. Historical aerial photographs of the area show aircraft parked in the area; however, activity appears limited. The primary soil contaminant at this site is petroleum.

The Air Force revised its proposed action at this site from excavation to no action, based on the results of the updated risk assessments. The original cost of soil excavation at this site was over \$200,000.

MW269x30 Area (Site SS030)

SS030 covers approximately 1.6 acres in the area around MW269x30 near the southern Base boundary. The monitoring well was originally installed to evaluate water quality along the Base boundary. The site is adjacent to a radar facility (Facility 1125); however, historical aerial photographs do not indicate any activities that may have generated contamination. The

primary soil contaminants are metals.

The Air Force revised its proposed action at this site from excavation to no action, based on the results of the updated risk assessments. The original cost of soil excavation at this site was over \$400,000.

MW107x32 and MW246x32 Areas (Site ST032)

ST032 is an 11-acre field between a runway and an abandoned taxiway. The primary soil contaminant is benzene, a volatile jet fuel constituent, from old underground fuel line leaks.

The Air Force revised its proposed action at this site from excavation to LUCs, based on the results of the updated risk assessments. The proposed administrative LUCs will be in place as long as benzene concentrations in soil exceed levels that are appropriate for residential use. This revision will reduce the project cost at this site by over \$1,000,000.

Facility 811 (Site SD034)

SD034 consists of Facility 811, a large aircraft maintenance hangar in the western portion of the base, that contains an indoor wash rack, an oil-water separator (OWS), and a concrete-lined overflow pond. Aircraft surfaces are washed at the wash rack, and wastewater flowed into an OWS. The primary contaminant in the 1.1-acre contaminated soil area is petroleum from a leaking OWS, which has since been replaced.

The Air Force revised its proposed action at this site from monitored natural attenuation to no action, based on the results of the updated risk assessments. This revision will reduce the site project cost by approximately \$30,000.

Facilities 818/819 (Site SS035)

SS035 consists of Facilities 818/819, which are two large aircraft maintenance hangars. They contain a wash area, oil-water separator (OWS), hydraulic lift storage area, and hazardous material accumulation area. These hangars have been used to repair, wash, and paint aircraft. Low

concentrations of Poly-Chlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) were found in a 5-acre soil area on the east side of facility 818. A PCB is an oil additive that was once used in electrical transformers and machinery. PCB concentrations are below residential levels.

The Air Force revised its proposed action at this site from excavation to no action, based on the results of the updated risk assessments. The original cost of soil excavation at this site was approximately \$300,000.

Facility 872/873/876 (Site SD036)

SD036 in the western portion of the base consists of three Civil Engineering facilities that included a wash rack, a locksmith shop, and a paint shop. They were historically used for vehicle and electric motor maintenance, paint mixing, and storage. The buildings are now used for civil engineering mobile equipment storage and maintenance. The primary soil contaminant in this 6-acre area is petroleum.

The Air Force revised its proposed action at this site from monitored natural attenuation to no action, based on the results of the updated risk assessments. This revision will reduce the project cost at this site by approximately \$64,000.


Sanitary Sewer System, Facilities 837, 838, 919, 977, and 981, Area G Ramp, and Ragsdale/V Area (Site SD037)

SD037 encompasses a large industrial area in the western portion of the base that includes Facilities 837/838, 919, 977, and 981, an aircraft parking ramp, and the Ragsdale/V area. The facilities contain approximately 22,000 feet of sanitary sewer piping, an Oil-Water Separator (OWS), sumps, wash racks, and an underground fuel distribution system. The primary soil contaminants in this 90-acre area are petroleum products and metals.

The Air Force revised its proposed action at this site from excavation to LUCs, based on the results of the updated risk assessments. LUCs will be

in place as long as petroleum and metals concentrations in soil exceed levels that are appropriate for residential use. This revision will reduce the project cost at this site by over \$2,000,000.

SUMMARY

The proposed cleanup options for the contaminated soil sites at Travis AFB protect people and the environment, are cost effective, and comply with federal and state environmental law. 

What Can You Do?

As a member of the local community, your thoughts on these changes to the cleanup proposals for Travis AFB are important to the decision-making process. You can voice your opinion in several ways.

- 1. Talk to us.** There will be time during the public meeting on January 26, 2006 to tell us what you think about these changes. Can't attend the meeting? Then call Mark Smith, the Chief of Environmental Restoration for the Travis AFB Environmental Flight, or Jose Salcedo, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Project Manager. Their phone numbers are on the back cover of this fact sheet.
- 2. Write to us.** You can drop off your comments at the public meeting on January 26 or mail them to either Mark Smith or Jose Salcedo. Their addresses are on the back cover of this fact sheet.
- 3. Send us an E-mail.** Mark Smith and Jose Salcedo also respond to E-mail from the public. Their E-mail addresses can be found on the back cover of this fact sheet.

Thank you for your interest and participation. 

Meeting Agenda

6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Poster Session:

The poster session encourages community members to discuss cleanup sites and proposed remedies with Air Force and regulatory agency staff on a one-to-one basis.

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Public Meeting

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Proposed Plan Overview

III. Review of Cleanup Sites

- FT002 Fire Training Area 1
- OT010 Sludge Disposal Site
- SS015 Solvent Spill Area
- SS016 Oil Spill Area
- WP017 Oxidation Pond Site
- SS029 Monitoring Well 329 Area
- SS030 Monitoring Well 269 Area
- ST032 Monitoring Well 246 Area
- SD034 Facility 811
- SS035 Facilities 818 and 819
- SD036 Facilities 872, 873 and 876
- SD037 Sanitary Sewer System

IV. Revised Cleanup Proposals

VIII. Request for Public Comments

Adjourn

Interested community members can obtain copies of the original Proposed Plan from and submit comments to either Mark Smith or Jose Salcedo. Their contact information is located on the opposite side of this page.

Travis AFB Soil Proposed Plan Public Meeting

January 26, 2006
7 p.m.

Northern Solano County
Association of Realtors
3690 Hilborn Rd
Fairfield, CA



LOCATION OF INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Vacaville Public Library

1020 Ulatis Drive
Vacaville, CA 95688

(707) 449-6290

Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday-Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Fairfield-Suisun Com. Library

1150 Kentucky Street
Fairfield, CA 94533

(707) 421-6500

Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday-Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Mitchell Memorial Library

510 Travis Boulevard
Travis AFB, CA 94535

(707) 424-3279

Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.



If you would like more information or need special accommodations for the public meeting, please contact Mark Smith, (707) 424-3062. You can also view our web site at <http://public.travis.af.mil/pages/enviro>

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