



Guardian

America's First Choice for Environmental Restoration

A Publication of the Environmental Restoration Program

Travis Air Force Base, California

July 2006

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Mark H. Smith, the Travis Remedial Program Manager, is glad that the second and final soil Record of Decision is behind us. However, the job is not over until it is over..... **2**

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Standards of cleanliness in the garage may not be the same as those in the kitchen. They often depend on the intended use of the location..... **3**

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A group of regulators that show up at the front gate might be a cause for concern. However, this group wanted to see the positive accomplishments of the Travis restoration program..... **3**

Next RAB Meeting:

The next Restoration Advisory Board meeting will be held on October 26, 2005 at the Office of the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors. The agenda is to be determined **4**



Signs of Progress



(Photo by Glenn Anderson)

Soon to be Open for Business: Next year, this Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU) will be open and ready to receive contaminated soil from other base locations. The Travis CAMU is a designated area that is designed for soil management. Our second soil ROD makes it possible.

Travis Wraps Up Remaining Soil Cleanup Decisions

By Glenn Anderson
Travis Project Manager

With four strokes of a pen, the Soil, Sediment and Surface Water Record of Decision (ROD) for the North/East/West Industrial Operable Unit (NEWIOU) became the last remaining roadmap needed to finish the soil cleanup on Travis Air Force Base (AFB).

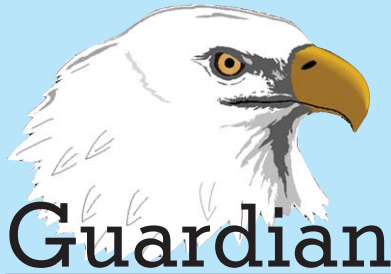
A ROD is a technical and legal decision that describes the cleanup actions at contaminated sites and provides the rationale to support these decisions. The NEWIOU ROD was

signed by the Air Force as the lead agency and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board as regulatory agencies to signify their agreement with the selected cleanup actions. The Travis AFB Wing Commander signed the ROD on behalf of the Air Force.

"This is the beginning of the end of our soil cleanup program," stated Mark Smith, Chief of Environmental Restoration. "Now that the hard part is over, the fun part of environmental restoration is about to begin."

Now that the NEWIOU ROD is signed, Travis AFB has the legal

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Guardian

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The *Guardian* is a publication of the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron's Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). The newsletter is designed to inform and educate the public about the base's ongoing environmental 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 program can be obtained from the public website at <http://public.travis.amc.af.mil/enviro>. Questions and comments about the program may be sent to this address:

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Are We There Yet?

Sometimes the road to environmental restoration seems so long and that it will take forever to get there. It feels so good to get another Record of Decision behind us, as it represents years of environmental investigation and laboratory analysis, legal review, quality assurance, risk assessment, stakeholder involvement, and negotiation with regulatory agencies. A rather significant accomplishment!

These "feel good" moments are real and well earned by all parties who participated in the production and review of this important decision document. In fact, during our June meeting with the regulatory agencies, there was plenty of revelry and elation for having reached such a mile marker on the road to cleanup.

However, as much as we enjoyed the congratulations and backslapping, we knew the job was not done yet. This was merely a pit stop on the way to the finish line. We still need to complete a fair amount of desk work before we can start next year's field work.

First, we had to set up a schedule for each remedial design (RD) and remedial action (RA). Known as an RD/RA schedule, it identifies the primary tasks for each document and assigns timelines to them. This schedule gives the Travis and regulatory project managers a tool to set deadlines and allocate resources to complete the production and review of each document.

We completed the RD/RA schedule on time, but that was just the schedule. Now we have an obligation with the regulatory agencies to meet that schedule. Currently, we are in the early stages of writing our first remedial designs, and they can be time consuming. A remedial design is a planning document that tells the cleanup contractor exactly how to carry out the cleanup. It is a valuable tool that makes sure




VIEWPOINT

Mark H. Smith
Travis Remedial
Program Manager

that we are not doing more harm than help to the environment and that each cleanup action meets the requirements of the ROD.

A typical remedial design is divided into three sections. Section one is a design analysis report that describes all of the tasks that must take place before, during and after the cleanup action. It covers topics such as wildlife surveys, habitat protection, mobilization, decontamination, dust suppression, and site restoration. Section two contains drawings of the contaminated areas and the most logical places to set up work zones. Section three contains all of the specifications that must be met during the cleanup.

After the cleanup contractor reviews a remedial design, he/she puts together a RA work plan. The work plan follows the design closely and shows us how they will carry out the cleanup action. It is very detail oriented and tells us who is assigned to the cleanup, what are their responsibilities, and when and how the work will be done. This plan is presented to every member of the cleanup team, so everyone knows what they need to do. If you think of it as a blueprint for success, then the cleanup process should run smoothly.

So, are we there yet? No, not yet, and it is too soon to rest on our laurels. We only get one chance to do the job right the first time, and these designs and work plans give us a high level of confidence that the work will be done on schedule and within budget. I appreciate all that helped to get us to this vista point. So, take the time to enjoy the view, then get back in the car as there is still more road ahead. 

ROD

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authority to carry out cleanup actions at ten contaminated sites in the eastern and central portions of the base. These sites range from creeks to fire training areas, and the contaminants consist primarily of metals and petroleum-based products. The ROD locks in the federal and state legal requirements that each cleanup action must meet and unlocks the cleanup funds that have been set aside to pay for these actions.

This is not the first ROD that the Air Force has signed for Travis AFB. In December 2002, cleanup decisions for ten sites in the western

part of the base were documented in the West/Annexes/Basewide Operable Unit Soil ROD. This ROD gave Travis AFB the permission to clean up its first group of soil sites. Throughout the 2003 summer construction season, contaminated soil was excavated and either sent by truck to an off-base landfill or placed in the on-base Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU). A CAMU is a designated area that is designed to carry out an aspect of a cleanup action, such as the accumulation and permanent control of contaminated soil. The Travis CAMU is located on top of a closed base municipal landfill and uses a designed soil cap to prevent exposure to the contaminated soil.

Excavation projects to remove contaminated soil or sediment are scheduled for the summer of 2007.

Copies of both RODs are available for review in the Travis AFB Information Repository, located in the Vacaville Public Library. Copies are also available in the Fairfield-Suisun Community Library in Fairfield and the Mitchell Memorial Library on the base.

This is the beginning of the end of our soil cleanup program.
- Mark Smith

How Clean Is "Clean"?

By Glenn Anderson
Travis Project Manager

That is a good question, and the answer can be complicated at times. However, the answer is crucial to any soil cleanup project that involves excavation, because cleanup levels dictate when the digging can stop!

To answer that question, the North/East/West Industrial Operable Unit (NEWIOU) Soil, Sediment, and Surface Water Record of Decision (ROD) actually selected two sets of cleanup levels for each soil

cleanup action. Industrial cleanup levels make up the first set of cleanup levels. They are based on the protection of the health of base workers and visitors as well as the local plant and animal environment. These are the cleanup levels that have to be met.

The second set of cleanup levels are based on residential usage. These are the cleanup levels that protect the general population, including children, adults that are sensitive to chemicals, etc. So, if the base wanted to build a home or playground or day care center at the location of a former contaminated soil site, these cleanup levels must be met before the construction can take place.

Of course, that brings up the question of how does anyone know which cleanup levels were met at a cleanup site?

Land Use Controls are the answer. A land use control (LUC) can be a physical barrier or an administrative action that restricts access to a piece of property. A fence is an example of a physical barrier, and a county deed restriction is an example of an administrative action. So, in this case, the purpose of a LUC is to restrict the use of property with soil contaminants above residential cleanup levels.

See **Clean** page 4

From the Field

By Glenn Anderson
Travis Project Manager

We may not have spent a lot of time in the field this spring, but our State of California regulators did their best to pick up the slack.

A group of environmental regulators from several Regional Water

Quality Control Boards visited Travis AFB in late May as part of their semi-annual Department of Defense (DOD) Roundtable meeting in Sacramento.

Topics of interest included our groundwater treatment plants, wetlands management, on-base Corrective Action Management Unit, and other successful areas of the Travis restoration program.



Water Board representatives from across the state pose in front of a groundwater treatment area.



Mr. John Kaiser, DOD Program Manager from the San Francisco Board, discusses water treatment.

Photo by Mark Smith

Photo by Mark Smith

Clean

■ From page 3

Actually, the NEWIOU ROD selected LUCs as an additional remedy for the six sites that will be excavated next year, just in case the residential cleanup levels are not met. The ROD also selected LUCs for four sites where the existing contaminant concentrations are already between residential and industrial cleanup levels. Finally, the ROD identified eight sites that did not pose potential risks to people or the environment and therefore did not require a cleanup action.

Will the six excavation projects achieve the residential cleanup levels and avoid permanent LUCs? There is no way to tell right now. However, the base conducted four cleanup actions in 2003, and they all achieved residential levels. So, with a 1.000 batting average, the Travis restoration program hopes to keep the streak alive!

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Travis AFB Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

October 26, 2006
7 p.m.

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



LOCATION OF INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

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

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