



Guardian

America's First Choice for Environmental Restoration

A Publication of the Environmental Restoration Program

Travis Air Force Base, California

January 2019

INSIDE

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*Along with finishing up the reports on last year's soil cleanup actions, the Travis AFB Restoration Program Manager is looking into his crystal ball and determining what needs to be done to wrap up one environmental services contract and starting the next one.....***2**

Next RAB Meeting:

*The next Restoration Advisory Board meeting will be held on April 18, 2019, at 7 p.m., at the Office of the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors. The meeting agenda is forthcoming.....***4**

Editor's Corner

The Viewpoint on page 2 discusses the upcoming selection of the next environmental contractor that will continue the cleanup work on Travis AFB, and there is a good reason for this. Over the last two years, the base restoration program manager, the contracting program manager, the Air Force Civil Engineer Center program manager (a.k.a., the money guy), and our top environmental attorney have all retired. This represents a huge brain drain and the loss of over a century of environmental experience. Fortunately, there has been no turnover in the contracted field team and managers who have contributed significantly to our success. So, is contractor selection important? You bet it is!!



(Photograph by Angel Santiago (Aegis))

Suited for Action: A heavy equipment operator carefully removes contaminated soil from an area near an emergency power facility. The soil contained a polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB-1254) from a leaking transformer. The second field technician verifies that the excavation uncovers no utility lines.

2018 Cleanup Wrapup

Completion of Soil Cleanup is Better Late than Never

By Glenn Anderson

Travis Environmental Project Manager

Regular Guardian readers know that the best time to carry out any field work on Travis AFB is during the dry summer months, since soggy soil from rain events tends to complicate the use of heavy equipment at cleanup sites. No one wants to call a tow truck to drag a backhoe out of the mud!

So, when the October 2018 Guardian reported a delay in the start of three soil cleanup actions, there was concern that these actions may have to wait until the

spring of 2019 when the soil is dry enough to allow heavy equipment to move safely around the sites.

Fortunately, all technical and legal negotiations with environmental regulatory agencies to ensure that the cleanup actions were conducted properly were completed for two sites by the end of October, base permits were completed soon afterwards, and the necessary subcontracted services were acquired to allow for an early December start date. The third cleanup action should start in early spring 2019.

"We were so glad when we got the green light to proceed with these soil actions," said Mr. Lonnie Duke, Travis AFB Envi-

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Visit our Environmental Program web site at <http://www.travis.af.mil/About-Us/Environment>



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The *Guardian* is published by the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's Western Region Restoration Support Team, located at Travis Air Force Base. The newsletter is designed to inform and educate the public about the ongoing environmental cleanup program at Travis Air Force Base. 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 web site at <http://www.travis.af.mil/enviro>. Questions and comments about the program may be sent to this address:

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Planning the Future

Happy New Year! Just about everyone I know hopes that 2019 will bring us better opportunities (or luck, health, finances, lottery numbers, etc.) than the previous year. Some of us even sign up to new resolutions to encourage us to reach our goals, although most of these personal contracts are broken by the end of the first month. Let's face it; achieving success in our future isn't easy!

One lesson I learned from past program managers is that success is not achieved by crossing one's finger and hoping for the best. It is a direct by-product of careful planning, consistent communication, and early preparation. Most of us have heard and agree with the common adage: "Failing to Plan is Planning to Fail."

Currently, the Travis AFB Environmental Restoration Program is in the sixth year of an eight-year Performance-based Contract (PBC) for environmental services, which means that we don't have a lot of time left to wrap up the remaining contractual requirements and begin the necessary contract closeout tasks. Once this contract is closed out, another environmental services contract must take its place so that there is no stoppage in cleanup activities, such as groundwater monitoring and treatment plant operation and maintenance.

To continue to successfully clean up soil and groundwater contamination, it is important to begin the planning process early so that we end up with the right environmental contract and an extensive list of performance goals that will be achieved at the right price. We also want the new contract in place before the end of the current contract in order to allow some turnover time between the outgoing and incoming contractor personnel.

This is what we know about the new contract and the contractor selection process so far:

1. We will use a new type of contract. It is called an Optimized Remediation Contract (ORC) and might be best described as a PBC with lessons learned built into it. And, yes, we have already heard several ORC jokes from fans of



VIEWPOINT

Lonnie A. Duke
 Travis AFB Restoration
 Program Manager

the Lord of the Rings trilogy!

2. The ORC will be a multi-year contract that will end in 2029 or later. This will allow the new contractor to strive for significant cleanup goals that could not be achieved in a cost effective manner under other types of contracts. All potential contractors will receive a solicitation package that describes the remaining environmental cleanup challenges on Travis AFB and they will provide detailed proposals on how they will resolve those challenges, taking into account the latest technological advances in soil and groundwater cleanup.

3. The current plan is for the ORC to be initiated and managed by the 772nd Enterprise Sourcing Squadron which falls under the Air Force Installation Contracting Agency (AFICA). The AFCEC Environmental Restoration Technical Support branch will provide technical support for the ORC. This is a change from how the PBC has been managed under the US Army Corps of Engineers using USACE personnel. The contractor selection team will meet in San Antonio, Texas and will consist of AFICA contracting specialists, AFCEC technical representatives, and Travis AFB restoration program personnel.

4. The ORC selection should probably take place in early 2021. This will provide enough time to complete the contractor selection process and to give the new team some turnover time.

I remember the large amount of work involved with the selection of our current PBC contractor; it was time-consuming and detail-oriented. However, we were happy with the end result, so I look forward to working with the 772nd to put together a solid contractor solicitation package and evaluating the resulting cost and technical proposals. That is the plan for our future, and we are sticking to it!



Wrapup

■ From page 1

ronmental Restoration Program Manager. “The two sites are small in size, but the soil actions will result in two closed sites after the paperwork is finished.”

Soil cleanup actions tend to be simple in concept but challenging in execution. The basic soil action involves the excavation of contaminated soil, its placement in bins or drums, the transport of the bins or drums by truck to an appropriate off-base landfill, the acceptance of the bins or drums by the landfill, and the restoration of the excavated areas with clean soil.

However, there is always some issue that has to be addressed before the soil

action can either start or finish. Just as the field team was preparing to start the first soil excavation, the first rains of the winter season arrived. Although a little water would not be a problem for backhoe operators, the field team must stop work after a rain event as a protective measure for certain threatened or endangered species (e.g., California Tiger Salamanders) that live on Travis AFB. These critters tend to move about when the moisture content in soil is high, so the field team had to ensure they are not present when work started up again.

Another critical issue that has the potential to ruin a backhoe operator’s day is buried utilities. The field team makes every effort to identify the presence

and type of utility lines that lie in the vicinity of the excavation area, because any damage to a utility will likely result in expensive repairs and loss of time on the job. Plus, the users of the utility will definitely not be happy! So, the field manager assigned to the excavation project checks with base personnel

found, so this line had to be de-energized before work could proceed.

Once the estimated volume of soil is removed from the excavation area, the field team collects confirmation soil samples to verify that the soil cleanup levels have been achieved. Usually, there is at least one confirmation sample

that contains contaminant concentrations above the established cleanup levels, so the excavation continues until there is a reasonable expectation that the cleanup levels are achieved. This is confirmed by a second round of soil sample collection and analysis.

Site restoration is usually the easiest part of a cleanup action and gives the field team the greatest amount of satisfaction.

Once the clean

soil is placed in the excavation and compacted sufficiently, the surface is either revegetated with local grass seed or covered with asphalt or concrete, depending on its original surface condition before the start of the cleanup. For the two soil actions, site restoration required several pints of grass seed, some course gravel and a small amount of a concrete patching material.

By completing these two soil cleanup actions, the environmental land use restrictions associated with these sites will be removed, and base planners can use those parcels of property for any purpose that supports base mission requirements. In the end, all of the planning and paperwork will be worth the effort.



Taking off the Top Layer: A heavy equipment operator places surface soil into a bin as part of the cleanup of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon-contaminated soil at the former Railhead Munitions Staging Area. The contaminated soil will be sent by truck to an off-base landfill for disposal. After clean soil is used to restore the site to its original condition, it will be ready for closure. (Photograph by Angel Santiago)

to see if up-to-date utility maps of the area are available. A utility locator is also brought onto the site to find any utilities that are not shown on the maps. Also, if there are electrical lines near the excavation area, the power to the lines must be temporarily cut off before work can proceed.

However, even with all of these precautions, it is surprising how often a utility that is not on a map and was not identified during the utility survey is discovered during the initial excavation. When this occurs, heavy equipment operation stops, and the field team uses hand tools to dig around the utility line. At one excavation area, a buried high voltage line in a concrete casing was



Community Relations Corner

Documents that will be Available for Public Review in 2019

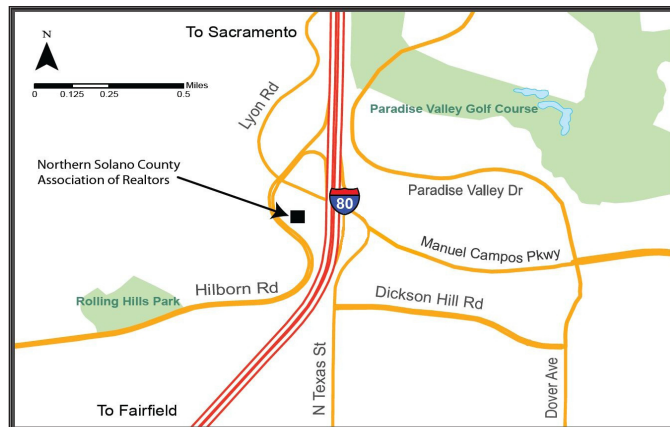
- 1. Fourth Five-Year Review Report
- 2. Amendment to the North/East/West Industrial Operable Unit Record of Decision
- 3. No Further Action Record of Decision for the TS060 Munitions Response Area (Old Skeet Range)

Please check our environmental program website for these and future opportunities to support the Travis AFB Environmental Restoration Program.

Travis AFB Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

April 18, 2019
7 p.m.

Northern Solano County Association of Realtors
3690 Hilborn Road
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: Closed
Saturday: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

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If you would like more information or need special accommodations for the RAB meeting, please contact Lonnie Duke, (707) 424-7520.

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