

IRP Update

April 2002



This fact sheet describes the plan for the Air Force to construct a waste consolidation unit at Site 443.

Waste consolidation unit for Site 443 planned at Edwards

The Air Force proposes to turn a remote former explosive Ordnance Disposal area into a waste consolidation unit (WCU) for debris associated with chemical warfare materiel (CWM) used during World War II at Edwards AFB. The area, designated Site 443, is located 2.5 miles southeast of the intersection of Mercury Boulevard and Rich Road. It now consists of several trenches and pits containing debris from the 1950s and 1980s. These burial locations will be addressed at a future time.

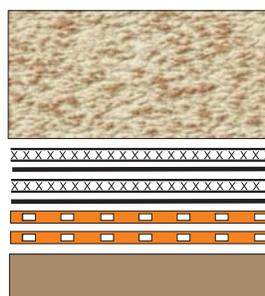
The \$747,000 project involves consolidating potential chemical warfare agent (CWA) impacted soil and debris from Site 426 and constructing a state-of-the-art liner and cover system. If sites similar

to Site 426 are found, construction of another WCU at Site 443 will be considered. Site 443 was chosen based on archival evidence showing the existence of munitions residue in the area.

After carefully considering many alternatives, the Air Force feels confident that a WCU will meet their goal of protecting human health and the environment. Public safety is the primary advantage of using the WCU. Storing CWM on base eliminates the hazards of transporting it to an outside facility.

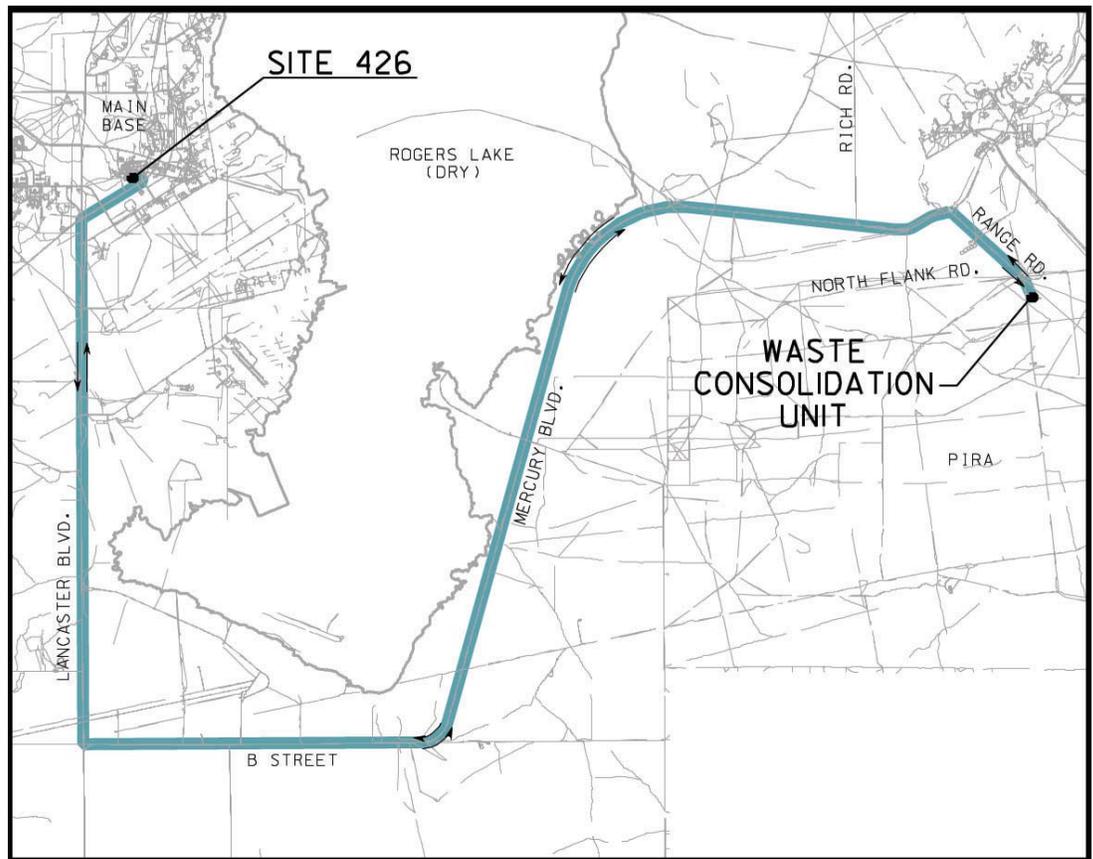
The cover system is designed to prevent rainwater from soaking into the unit and the lower liner is designed to prevent migration of contamination into groundwater. The WCU will include multiple layers with a geosynthetic clay

Typical Cover and Liner System Detail



Not to Scale

- 24" Protective Soil Layer
- Leachate Collection System
- 80-mil HDPE Textured Liner
- Leak Detection System
- 80-mil HDPE Textured Liner
- 2 Geosynthetic Clay Liners
- Prepared Subgrade



This map shows the route that will be used for transporting materials from Site 426 to the waste consolidation unit at Site 443.

liner and a high-density polyethylene liner as barriers.

The cover will also be graded to promote drainage, and the stormwater drainage system will control runoff.

Institutional controls will also be in place. These will include the installation of a fence surrounding the area of the WCU and the existing waste burial trenches. Administrative controls will restrict future land use and prohibit construction of structures on the WCU

and the waste burial trenches unless approval is received from Edwards AFB.

An 8-foot high chain-link fence with locking gates will surround the site. Warning signs will be posted on the fence. A perimeter access road will be constructed for monitoring and maintenance of the WCU.

After the institutional controls are in place, all equipment will be decontaminated before demobilizing from the site.

In the future, the Air Force will conduct long-term monitoring and maintenance of the site.

For more information on this project or the Installation Restoration Program, contact Gary Hatch, chief, Environmental Public Affairs at (661) 277-1454 or email: gary.hatch@edwards.af.mil.