



Report to **STAKEHOLDERS**

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**Air Force evaluates protectiveness of current
cleanup remedies at AFRL**

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Report to Stakeholders is a publication of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Installation Support Section at Edwards Air Force Base (AFCEC/CZOW). Its purpose is to inform and educate the public, base workers and residents about continuing Environmental Restoration Program efforts on base. It currently has a circulation of 4,500, including about 1,300 subscribers.

Contents of the *Report to Stakeholders* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

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Any comments or questions about the contents of the *Report to Stakeholders* may be directed to: Gary Hatch, 412 TW/PA, 305 E. Popson Ave., Edwards AFB, CA 93524, (661) 277-8707.

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WHAT'S ON THE COVER?

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW —

A photograph taken on top of Leuhman Ridge shows several buildings located above the Site 133 contaminant plume at the South Air Force Research Laboratory, Detachment 7.

Five-year reviews mandatory for ongoing cleanup remedies

Death and taxes are traditionally known as the only two guarantees in life. There may be one more — five-year reviews for Superfund cleanup sites that have active remedies in place. Required by law, cleanup remedies at a site where hazardous waste is present above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure must be reviewed every five years to ensure protection of human health and the environment. Read on to learn how officials from Edwards Air Force Base honor this guarantee in two areas at Air Force Research Laboratory, Detachment 7.



SAMPLING GROUNDWATER: A field worker takes a groundwater sample from a monitoring well that will be sent to a laboratory for analysis. Periodic sampling helps the Air Force track the movement of groundwater contaminants, which is evaluated during five-year reviews.

Remedies in place at South AFRL declared protective in second five-year review report

Air Force officials have determined that existing cleanup remedies at four South Air Force Research Laboratory, Detachment 7 sites are functioning as intended and remain protective of human health and the environment.

The cleanup remedies were formally selected in the 2007 South AFRL Record of Decision, and the sites are located on the southwest side of Leuhman Ridge, east of Rogers Dry Lakebed at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

Environmental restoration experts evaluated the cleanup remedies at Sites 37, 120, 133 and 321, and published the results in a five-year review report submitted to the U.S. EPA. The report validated the protectiveness and functionality of the current remedies in place to address chlorinated solvents (degreasers) that were historically used to clean engine and metal parts in support

of rocket propulsion activities conducted at South AFRL.

The Second FYR Report for South AFRL is available online at www.edwards.af.mil/About-Us/Environment (under the Publications tab) and at the Information Repositories listed on the back of this newsletter.

The groundwater cleanup remedies evaluated as part of the second FYR at South AFRL include a technical impracticability waiver and containment zone; land use controls; and long-term monitoring. Also evaluated was the subsurface vapor cleanup remedy that consists of engineering and land use controls, and sampling and monitoring activities.

The cleanup remedies at South AFRL will continue to be evaluated every five years until the site is cleaned to unlimited use and unrestricted exposure. The next FYR is expected to occur in 2022.

Second five-year review underway at AFRL soil and debris sites to evaluate current remedies

The U.S. Air Force is conducting a second five-year review on eight soil and debris sites at Air Force Research Laboratory, Edwards Air Force Base, California. The sites are located on and to the east of Leuhman Ridge, which is east of Rogers Dry Lakebed within the western portion of the Mojave Desert.

The purpose of the FYR is to evaluate whether the current remedies at the eight soil and debris sites (as selected in the Record of Decision) are functioning as intended and remain protective of human health and the environment.

The AFRL Soil and Debris Sites Record of Decision was signed in August 2008. The remedies selected in the Record of Decision primarily use land use controls (administrative and physical barriers) to limit access and exposure to the sites, which include rocket test areas, industrial facilities, a landfill and two abandoned mineral mines (Sites 6 and 113).

Contaminants of concern vary depending on the historical

activities conducted at each soil and debris site. They consist of potentially hazardous trash and debris, rocket propellant and fuel components, polychlorinated biphenyls that were used to cool electric transformers, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (by-products of the burning of a kerosene-based liquid fuel) and potentially explosive debris.

Except for Sites 6 and 113, none of these remedies addresses groundwater; instead, the focus is on soil and debris. Groundwater contamination at AFRL is being addressed through other Records of Decision.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concurred with the protectiveness of the cleanup remedies evaluated in the First AFRL Soil and Debris Sites FYR Report, which was released in 2013. The Second AFRL Soil and Debris Sites FYR Report is expected to be finalized in September 2018 (date subject to change), at which time the Air Force will announce the report's availability to the public.



CELEBRATING DECADES OF SERVICE:

Government workers from the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's Installation Support Section, who oversee environmental cleanup activities at Edwards AFB, received certificates and pins commemorating their decades of civil service. Thirty-year veteran Rebecca Hobbs (left) manages South Base and the Site 3 landfill; 20-year veteran Nash Saleh (center) manages AFRL; and 10-year veteran Joe Dunwoody (right) manages the base's fence-to-fence environmental contract.

Where to find more INFORMATION



Published data and documents related to the Environmental Restoration Program at Edwards are available for public review at three Information Repositories. The Information Repositories are located at:

Edwards Air Force Base Main Library
5 W. Yeager Blvd.
Edwards AFB, California
(661) 275-2665
www.edwardsfss.com/wordpress/library

**Kern County Public Library
Wanda Kirk Branch**
3611 Rosamond Blvd.
Rosamond, California
(661) 256-3236
www.kerncountylibrary.org/rosamond-branch/

Los Angeles County Public Library
601 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, California
(661) 948-5029
www.colapublib.org/libs/lancaster/

For questions about documents in the repositories, you may contact Gary Hatch, 412th Test Wing Public Affairs, at (661) 277-8707 or by e-mail at 412tw.pae@us.af.mil.

General information about the environmental program at Edwards can be found at the following websites:

www.edwards.af.mil/About/Environment
www.facebook.com/EdwardsEnvMgt/



Restoration Advisory Board Information

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is made up of appointed representatives from communities on and around Edwards Air Force Base, regulators from federal and state agencies and base officials. The board's purpose is to provide a forum for two-way communication between the public and those responsible for environmental cleanup at the base.

The board meets semiannually, rotating meeting locations among communities surrounding the base. The public is welcome to attend. Those who have questions or concerns about cleanup activities at Edwards

may contact any RAB member or Gary Hatch, 412th Test Wing Public Affairs, at (661) 277-8707.

The RAB also has its own Facebook site: www.facebook.com/RAB.Edwards. "Like" us on Facebook today!

NEXT BOARD MEETING

May 17, 2018
5:30 p.m.
California City, California

RAB Members

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South Base

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Air Force Research Laboratory

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