



Report to

STAKEHOLDERS

October 2021

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**Edwards AFB hosts
first virtual RAB
meeting** page 2

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 4,000, including about 1,100 subscribers.

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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?

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

Aircraft remnants mark the location of a site being investigated for emerging contaminants known as PFAS, a topic briefed at a virtual Restoration Advisory Board meeting held in May. The site is a former fire training area where the Air Force reportedly used chemical foam as a fire extinguishing agent during training exercises in the 1970s.

RAB members take base cleanup program online

Edwards Air Force Base held its first virtual Restoration Advisory Board meeting in May, working around a few technological challenges to successfully complete the first base RAB meeting since November of 2019 because of compliance with COVID-19 protocols.

“The virtual meeting was quite different than what Edwards has come to expect at RAB meetings,” said Paul Schiff, base remedial project manager.

“The flow of communication felt somewhat hampered by the lag times in audio and with the visual presentation. And the virtual platform doesn’t allow the same personal connections and some of the discussions that we are used to having at in-person RAB meetings,” he said.

Still, the meeting did fulfill its key purpose, which is interactive communication between community representatives and those managing the environmental cleanup of the base, Schiff said.

During the virtual meeting, Schiff provided an overview of the environmental restoration program, starting with the assurance that monitoring, sampling, treatment and document reporting activities continued throughout the pandemic. Schiff noted that the Air Force was unable to hold a RAB meeting during 2020, but was able to publish a RAB fact sheet in November outlining ongoing and future cleanup activities. Alonzo Poach, remedial project manager for the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, agreed that base restoration activities were largely unaffected by the pandemic.

Schiff briefed the RAB about an update of the Community Involvement Plan, or CIP, which is a required document under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as CERCLA. “The CIP is a collaborative effort and acts as a roadmap for cleanup activities on base,” said Schiff. “Transparency and cooperation among stakeholders and the community are at the forefront of what we do.”

The CIP identifies community issues and concerns related to the Edwards environmental cleanup program. Air Force officials are updating the 2014 plan to include 2021 interviews from community members and 2020 census data. A preview final CIP is expected to be issued for a 30-day public comment period in August 2022. The public comment period will be advertised in local newspapers, posted on the Edwards AFB public website, the Edwards RAB Facebook page and RAB members will be notified via email. Schiff also announced that the final CIP is expected to be published in February 2023.

Schiff then covered base restoration activities that have occurred since the November RAB fact sheet was issued and planned future activities. First, he discussed the investigations at Edwards AFB for emerging contaminants known as perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS for short. Schiff explained that the Air Force is evaluating the compounds to determine the extent of the areas of concern. An expanded Site Inspection effort was completed with a report published in January. The next phase of the CERCLA process — the Remedial Investigation — is currently

underway and a draft work plan was submitted to the regulatory agencies for review in May.

Schiff provided the RAB with an update of the Relative Risk Site Evaluation — RRSE — of PFAS. The RRSE is a standard method by which Air Force components evaluate the relative risk posed by a site in relation to other sites. Schiff explained that Edwards will still complete an RRSE even though the base has already been funded to conduct a Remedial Investigation of PFAS. Air Force officials are updating the base RRSE package that will be uploaded to the Administrative Record for a 30-day public comment period. The final RRSE package will include regulatory and public input.

The formal dispute between the Air Force and regulatory agencies on the Air Force Research Laboratory, Detachment 7, Arroyos Record of Decision remains with the Senior Executive Committee for resolution. Schiff briefed that the Air Force continued semiannual indoor air sampling of Building 1807 on the main base flightline, with the November results confirming that trichloroethene, or TCE, levels were below all action levels. A Building 1807 Vapor Intrusion Investigation Summary report that captured data results collected from November 2009 through July 2019 was completed in February 2021.

Schiff announced that the Air Force is working to complete its third Five-Year Review for Operable Unit 6 or OU6 NASA Armstrong. The objective of the review is to evaluate whether the selected remedy in place is still protective of human health and the environment. “The goal is to ensure that the remedy is performing as designed,” said Schiff. The Five-Year Review is currently being routed for signature and the Air Force will notify the public when the document is available.

Schiff explained that the OU7 Miscellaneous Proposed Plan was delayed because an internal Air Force review of the document identified the need for further soil gas sampling collection. He said the soil gas sampling data will be incorporated

into a draft Proposed Plan, which will then be submitted to regulatory agencies for review.

With the next RAB meeting scheduled for November 18, the Air Force is considering whether an in-person or virtual meeting is appropriate. “The Air Force has learned a lot about virtual/online communication and will continue to consider these venues for future RAB meetings, on a case-by-case basis, as the virtual platforms continue to improve over time,” said Schiff.

If held in person, the venue is expected to be in North Edwards, California. The in-person or virtual venue will be advertised in local newspapers and posted on the RAB’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RAB.Edwards. The public is welcome to attend.

History of the RAB

Restoration Advisory Boards are a key component of public involvement for military installations. The beginnings of that public involvement are decades old.

It was the Love Canal incident of 1978 that set the stage for a change in national attitude about protecting human health and the environment. In the late 1950s, approximately 100 homes and a school were built on top of the cover of a previous municipal and industrial chemical dump site, creating a small neighborhood that covered 36 square blocks in the southeastern corner of Niagara Falls, New York.

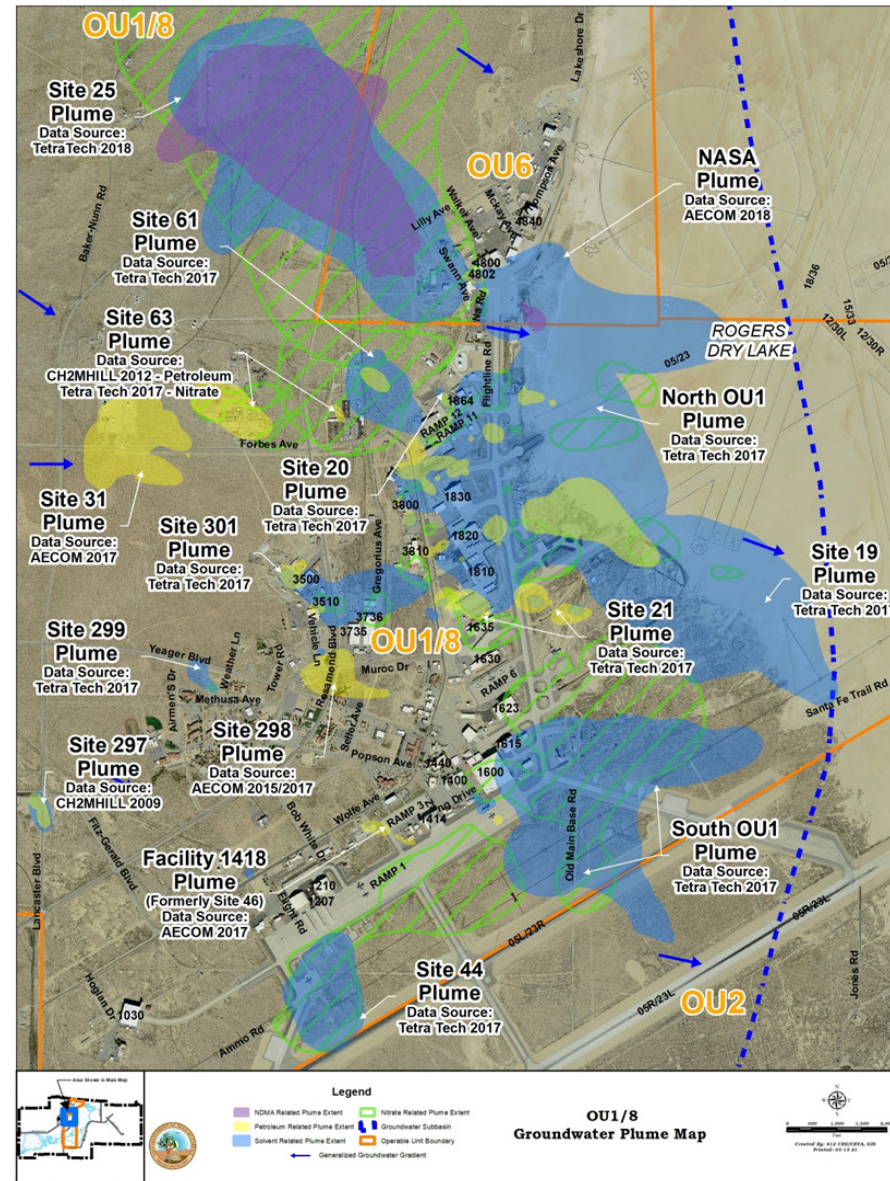
By August 7, 1978, President Jimmy Carter had declared a federal emergency for the town. Eventually, hundreds of families were relocated and their homes purchased by the government.

Two years later, the U.S. Congress passed legislation that provided a way to assign responsibility and exact payment for the cleanup of contaminated sites. This legislation, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, also known as Superfund, formed the foundation for the RAB process — two-way communication between the public and those responsible for the cleanup.

The RAB at Edwards AFB consists of community or public representatives, representatives from federal and state environmental regulatory agencies, the 412th Test Wing vice commander, and the base remedial project manager.

RAB meetings at Edwards AFB are held semiannually and are open to the public. A recess during the meeting allows members of the public an opportunity to bring concerns or questions to the attention of one of the community representatives.

Edwards’ first advisory group was formed in 1992 and called a Technical Review Committee. Two years later the TRC was reformed as the RAB. Members do not have to be experts in environmental restoration, but they do need to live or work in the community they represent and be sponsored by a community organization.



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 and online at <https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil>. 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/library

Kern County Public Library

Wanda Kirk Branch
3611 Rosamond Blvd.
Rosamond, California
(661) 256-3236
www.kerncountylibrary.org/find-hours-locations

Los Angeles County Public Library

601 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, California
(661) 948-5029
www.lacountylibrary.org/lancaster-library

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



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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

Nov. 18, 2021
5:30 p.m.
Microsoft Teams

RAB Members

OFF-BASE COMMUNITIES

Boron

Vacant — If you live or work in Boron, you may apply to be a public representative.

California City

Alexia Svejda (760) 373-8676
info@californiacitychamber.com

Lancaster

Raj Malhi (661) 723-6019
rmalhi@cityoflancasterca.org

Mojave

Victor Yaw (661) 754-1641
vicyaw@yahoo.com

North Edwards

Vacant — If you live or work in North Edwards, you may apply to be a public representative.

Rosamond

William Gaddis (661) 965-7771
william.gaddis@us.af.mil (661) 277-3387

ON-BASE COMMUNITIES

Housing

David Soltis (661) 277-2451
david.soltis@us.af.mil (850) 380-8096

Main Base Test Wing

Otto Zahn (661) 277-3174
otto.zahn.1@us.af.mil

NASA Armstrong

Vacant — If you work at NASA Armstrong, you may apply to be a public representative.

North Base

Vacant — If you work at North Base, you may apply to be a public representative.

South Base

Vacant — If you work at South Base, you may apply to be a public representative.

Air Force Research Laboratory

Joe Mabry (661) 857-6289
joseph.mabry@us.af.mil

Remedial Project Managers

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California Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

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Todd Battey (760) 241-7340
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