

# Fact Sheet



Kelly Air Force Base Conversion Agency

June 15, 2002

## Zone 5 Cleanup Proposed

The Air Force is recommending using permeable reactive barriers (PRBs) together with enhanced bioremediation to cleanup off-base contaminated groundwater in Plume A, Zone 5. This plume is in the area of Growdon Road. In January 2002, the Air Force submitted the Zone 5 Corrective Measures Study (CMS) to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC).

Reducing and eliminating off-base contaminant migration is the goal of the Air Force. The source of contamination was a solvent still in Building 1414 on base. The contaminant of concern in Plume A is Trichloroethene (TCE). Vinyl chloride and Dichloroethene (DCE) are the degradation products of TCE and have also been found in the groundwater.

Permeable reactive barriers (PRBs) together with enhanced bioremediation were chosen for their effectiveness at protecting long-term human health and the environment. PRBs are flow-through reactive walls that treat contaminated water underground. First, a trench is dug across the path of the contamination. The trench is then filled with treatment material based on the contaminant. Iron filings are

used for treating chlorinated solvents. As water passes through the trenches, the iron filings convert the contaminants to carbon dioxide, water and the mineral, chloride.

Supplementing the PRB will be enhanced bioremediation. This process feeds organic materials like vegetable oil into the ground via injection wells. With each six-month injection, microorganisms digest the organic material and over time chlorine is removed leaving harmless ethene. The entire process can take up to two years.

Zone 5 also has several plumes that are completely on base. The CMS proposes that four of these, which are TCE plumes, be treated with natural attenuation. Enhanced bioremediation at the source is proposed for the fifth plume to treat PCE. The sixth plume will use vapor extraction together with pump and treat technology to address chlorobenzene.

The Air Force is holding a 45-day public comment period on this proposal. The comment period will end July 29, 2002.

The meeting schedule is as follows:

- Saturday June 15, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Dwight Middle

School, located at 2454 West Southcross.

- Tuesday June 18, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at John F. Kennedy High School, located at 1922 South General McMullen.
- Thursday July 25, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at John F. Kennedy High School.

The Zone 5 corrective measures study is available at the Kelly AFB Library and the San Antonio Central Library in the government documents section.

San Antonio Central Library  
(Government Documents Section)  
600 N. Soledad  
San Antonio, TX 78205

And

Kelly AFB Library  
Bldg. 1650, room 138  
250 Goodrich Dr., STE. 6  
Kelly AFB, TX 78241

### Questions?

AFBCA is dedicated to involving the community in the cleanup program for the former Kelly AFB. For more information on this project, please call the AFBCA Public Information Line at 210-925-0956.