
SITE S-1 SOILS FACT SHEET

November 1999

A fact sheet providing answers to key questions at Site S-1

BACKGROUND

Site S-1 is the former location of an intermediate storage area for wastes on their way from Kelly AFB to off-base recycling or disposal facilities. It is on the north boundary of the base, southwest of Growdon Drive and Barney Avenue.

The storage area was at the bottom of an abandoned gravel pit that has since been filled and graded. Wastes were stored in aboveground tanks at the site from the 1960s until 1973. The tanks sometimes overflowed, and spills sometimes occurred when the tanks were loaded or unloaded.

WHAT'S THERE?

Wastes stored at the site included carbon cleaning compounds, various petroleum products, and surplus electrical transformers. The primary contaminant of concern found in the soil and groundwater at Site S-1 is chlorobenzene. The highest concentrations of chlorobenzene were detected in samples taken from what was called the sump area, a low spot in the gravel pit where leaks, spills and rainwater collected over the years.



Samples were collected in March 1999 at different depths down to 28 feet below ground level to determine how much soil was contaminated at Site S-1.

HOW WILL IT AFFECT ME?

A public health assessment report on the Kelly area released by the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in August 1999 concluded that current exposure to water, air and soil would result in minimal adverse health effects for people living in and around Kelly AFB. The ATSDR is part of the Centers for Disease Control.

Investigators for the ATSDR evaluated possible ways community members could come in contact with contaminants, and concluded the concentrations of chemicals are too low to cause residents to get sick. The ATSDR frequently advises state and federal agencies, as well as community members, on the health impacts of polluted sites.

Other studies using extensive soil data collected from Site S-1 found no unacceptable risk to human health and the environment. Air quality studies performed also show no harmful levels of chemical vapors in the air.

WHAT IS THE AIR FORCE DOING ABOUT IT?

This November, excavation work will begin and last for about eight weeks. The cleanup project consists of two parts: removal of contaminated soil and installation of a soil vapor recovery and treatment system.

Once the excavation begins, measures will be taken to ensure that residents will not have any contact with this soil. The brief length of time it will take to remove the soil and the low concentrations of the compounds in the soil should prevent the occurrence of any adverse health effects.

Dust will be controlled by wetting and the use of a special foam. Odors will be minimized by using another special, odor-suppressing foam.

About 13,000 cubic yards of soil will be removed and transported to an off-base landfill. Trucks leaving the site will be covered and will be routed to avoid residential streets. The excavation then will be backfilled with soil. Construction of a soil vapor extraction system (SVE) will follow.

SVE is a process that uses a vacuum pump to pull organic contaminant vapors from the soil to be treated above ground. An interim system to treat contaminated groundwater at the site has been operating since 1995.