

Environmental Action

UPDATE

A Quarterly Newsletter about the McClellan AFB Environmental Activities - California October 1997

Underground Storage Tank Program Finishes Phase One

In the early '90's, federal and state regulations required the removal or replacement of all single-walled Underground Storage Tanks (USTs). With this mandate, McClellan AFB established an aggressive UST program. The program is divided into three phases: phase one is the removal or replacement of tanks, phase two is the characterization and assessment of the area, and phase three is the cleanup or remediation of areas that are contaminated. Environmental Management (EM) personnel successfully completed phase one 15 months ahead of the scheduled regulatory deadline of December 22, 1998. Critical to this success is the teaming effort of Environmental Management, Sacramento County Hazardous Materials Management, and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

Completion of phase one means all the old and possibly leaking USTs have been closed or replaced by "state of the art" double walled tanks. In total, 207 tanks were removed and 18 new USTs installed. The removal of Tank Farm #1 on the southeast side of the base ended phase one. This was the largest collection of tanks in the same area on base, and the removal of these tanks marked a major milestone in the program.

Phase two of the UST program is the characterization of the tank sites. Analysis results of the samples taken in phase two are evaluated and modeled by McClellan to determine if the sites can be certified clean and designated No Further Action, or if the sites may need further cleanup actions. These evaluations are then submitted to Sacramento County

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Contractors remove one of the nine 50,000 gallon tanks at tank farm #1 used to hold jet fuel and diesel. Each tank was 61 feet long, 13 feet in diameter and weighed from 50 - 70,000 pounds.

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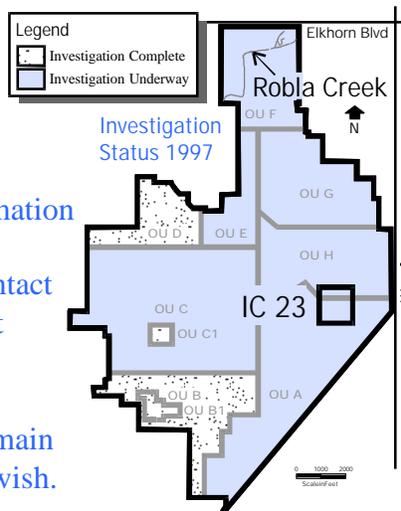
Field Work Update

OUs E–H Update

Field work for the Phase I Remedial Investigations (RIs) in Operable Units (OUs) E–H is continuing on the northern portion of the base. Environmental Management (EM) personnel have confirmed the presence of soil and groundwater contamination at an underground storage tank site (*see lead article for more details on the UST program*). The concentrations indicate installation of a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system. The SVE system chosen will likely be a low temperature destruction system like the one at IC23 seen on the recent public tour of the base (*see related article on page 3*). Sites such as these pose no immediate threat to human health by direct exposure, but are the sources of the groundwater contamination on base. When found, the sites are evaluated and quickly scheduled into the SVE program for cleanup. More information on this was presented at the October 15 public Restoration Advisory Board meeting at the Vineland school.

An area north of Robla Creek on base will be sampled more thoroughly because of past disposal information recently brought forward to EM personnel from a base neighbor. The area was used as a clean soils holding area by the base from 1987 to 1992.

If anyone has information about past disposal practices, please contact Margaret Gidding at 643-1742, ext. 354. People volunteering information may remain anonymous if they wish.



OU C Update—RI Result

OU C is the area on base that contains former landfills. An important consideration in landfill areas is the potential for the generation of waste decomposition gases such as methane. Based upon the first phase of RI in OU C, a monitoring program has been initiated to check for gases commonly generated from former landfills. Bioenvironmental Engineering (SGB) is currently monitoring the buildings around the landfill to ensure worker safety in the area.

Usually, landfill gas will dissipate through the surface of the landfill. However, if there is a building on top of the ground, the gas may build up under the slab or in the crawl space of the structure. To ensure personnel safety and to comply with the regulatory requirements when dealing with landfills and gases, a working group has been formed consisting of representatives from the following base organizations: SGB, EM, Safety Office, Fire Department, and Civil Engineering's Programs Office and Real Property Office. SGB began quarterly testing for gases in April at every facility within 1,000 feet of the landfill sites and found no presence of methane or other gases that pose a health threat. EM is also installing landfill gas monitoring wells and will monitor for the potential underground migration of landfill gas.

The landfill area in OU C is currently an Air Force fire training area. Local community organizations have expressed an interest in expanding this training area. To assist in developing reuse capability for the fire training area, EM has accelerated the scheduled closures of the landfills under the fire training area. This accelerated schedule and developing strategy for landfill

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The *Environmental Action Update* is a publication of the Environmental Public Affairs Office at McClellan AFB, California, designed to keep the public informed of environmental activities at the base. For questions, comments, or to be added to the mailing list, please write to SM-ALC/PAE, 5050 Dudley Blvd., Suite 3, McClellan AFB, CA 95652-1389 or phone (916) 643-1742, ext. 354.

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USTs Removed

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and RWQCB for concurrence. Currently, there are 65 clean sites, 75 contaminated sites, and 50 sites under evaluation.

The third and final phase is to clean or remediate the contaminated sites. McClellan is aggressively moving forward to cleanup UST sites. Working with the Installation Restoration Program, McClellan has installed seven bioventing systems. Bioventing, a process that injects air into the soil, providing oxygen to stimulate the growth of natural organisms that "eat" or naturally degrade the fuel contamination, is especially effective for fuel contaminated sites. One of the seven systems successfully cleaned up one site in just three years. Five bioventing systems are in operation and one is ready for start up. All remediation system installations for phase three are scheduled for completion by July 2001.

Thanks to the successful teaming of Deb Soper, Jerry Vincent, and Brian Fifield of EM, Chris Hamilton and Anita Benedict of Sacramento County, and Alex MacDonald of RWQCB for the successful completion of phase one 15 months ahead of the deadline. 

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closure was briefed to the Relative Risk Ranking (RRR) Committee of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The RRR Committee will be tracking the progress of this project and reporting back to the RAB. It is anticipated that closure of the landfill sites will begin in 2001.

Also in OU C, phase two of the RI in the southern portion will be wrapping up in mid-October. Data will be analyzed and interpreted to determine what additional cleanup actions are necessary for OU C. 

RAB Tour and Training



Technicians demonstrate groundwater sampling for RAB members at a September tour.

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) toured the environmental sites at McClellan AFB on September 3, 1997. Focus for the tour was a soil vapor extraction (SVE) and groundwater systems near the southern portion of the base. RAB members saw off-gas treatment systems, granularly activated carbon treating contaminated groundwater, bioventing, and a groundwater sampling demonstration. Another tour is being considered for Spring 1998.

On October 2, the McClellan RAB had a training session on quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) for the environmental restoration program. The October training was part of a series of training sessions to help RAB members better understand the technical aspects of the environmental investigation and cleanup process. Mr. Vance Fong of U.S. EPA Region IX presented information on QA/QC at the October 15 RAB general meeting as well. QA/QC are the steps and measures taken during all parts of the investigation to ensure the analytical data produced during the investigation are good for decision making purposes. 



More and more organizations are using the World Wide Web as a means of communicating. Here are some web sites you may be interested in:

U.S. EPA - <http://www.epa.gov>

DoD Environmental Cleanup Home Page - <http://www.dtic.mil/envirodod>

***McClellan AFB Environmental Management - <http://www.mcclellan.af.mil/EM>**

** Check out new postings on this site for the RAB and Information Repository!*



Upcoming Meetings

RAB Community Relations Committee Meeting

November, 1997
Date and Time to be Determined
269 D Conference Room

RAB Executive Meeting

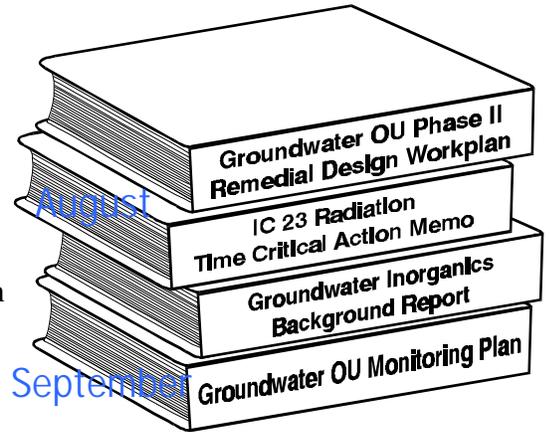
December 3, 1997
6:30-8:30 pm
269 D Conference Room

RAB General Meeting

January 21, 1997
6-9 pm
Watch for Upcoming Agenda

Recently Issued Documents

All recently issued documents are available at the Administrative Record at McClellan AFB. Call Danny Durkee at 643-1742 x 347, for details.



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT REMEDIAL SCOREBOARD

As of September 1st, 1997
Pounds of Contamination
Removed from Soil and Water:

690,000

Environmental Action

UPDATE

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