

# UPDATE

A Quarterly Newsletter about the McClellan AFB Environmental Activities - California January 1998

## '98 Proposed Removal Actions for Low Level Radiation Sites

McClellan is preparing to clean up five sites in '98 that have low level radioactive contamination. Low level radioactive contamination means there isn't very much contamination, but it is high enough to require some kind of action. The most likely sources of the radium contamination are items (such as watch faces, gauge faces, and directional markers) that used radium paint for illumination. Currently, access to the sites is restricted to ensure protection of the community and the workers on base. Interim cleanup measures, like restricting access, were discussed at previous public Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings with community members. The radiation cleanup effort is on schedule and the community will be protected while the base honors its commitment to cleaning up it's property in support of reuse.

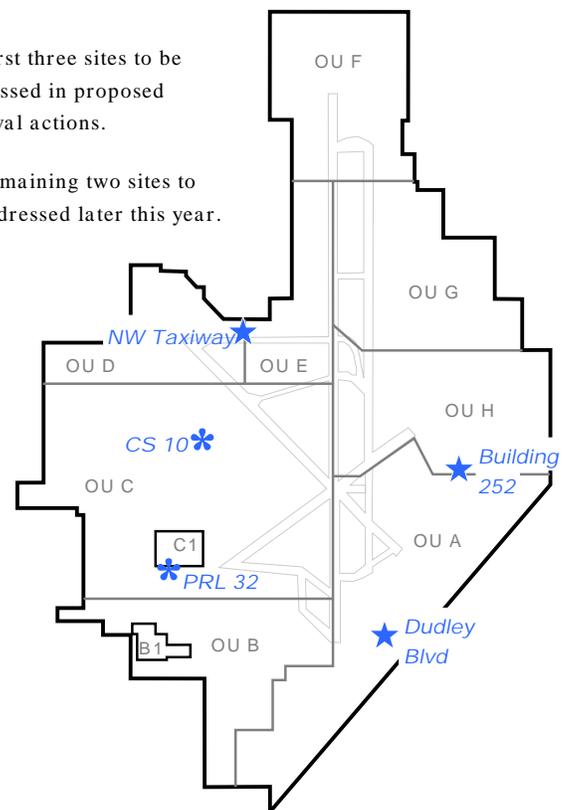
The current cleanup effort focuses on three of the five sites: Building 252, a radium dial painting facility, a site off of the northwest taxiway, and a site right off of Dudley Blvd near Building 429. Building 252 has been an ongoing effort to remove radioactive contamination and was a topic at past public meetings. The other two sites were identified during a scan of the base by the US EPA's specially equipped van approximately a

year ago. (McClellan newsletter) recommending removing the radiation contaminated soil and shipping it to an off-site disposal facility. A document evaluating the ways to cleanup up the three sites has been given to the RAB community members for review. McClellan is interested in community concerns related to the proposed cleanup of radiologically contaminated sites. The RAB discussed community concerns on the radiological cleanup efforts at the Jan. 21 RAB public meeting.

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★ First three sites to be addressed in proposed removal actions.

✳ Remaining two sites to be addressed later this year.



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## Removal Actions for Low Level Radiation Sites

|   |          | Input   |   |     | Decision |   |     | Cleanup   |   |     |   |   |          |                         |     |     |
|---|----------|---|---|-----|----------|---|-----|---|---|-----|---|---|----------|-------------------------|-----|-----|
| Bldg 252<br>NW Taxiway<br>Dudley Blvd.          | ★        | Draft document recommending remedial action (EE/CA) |   |     |          |   | ★   | Final document for remedial action recommendation |   |     | ★   | Removal Action Workplan                   |          |                         |     |     |
|   |          |   | Comments due for remedial action recommendation | ★   |          |   | ★   | Decision on remedial action (Action Memo)         |   |     |   |   |          |                         |     |     |
| CS-10<br>PRL-32                                 |          |   |   |     | ✱        | Draft document recommending remedial action (EE/CA) |     |   |   | ✱   | Final document for remedial action recommendation |   |          |                         |     |     |
|   |          |   |   |     |          |   |     | ✱   | Comments due for remedial action recommendation |     | ✱   | Decision on remedial action (Action Memo) | ✱        | Removal Action Workplan |     |     |
| <b>Steps and Timeframes for Removal Actions</b> |          |   |   |     |          |   |     |   |   |     |   |   |          |                         |     |     |
|   | Dec 1997 | Jan 1998  | Feb   | Mar | Apr      | May   | Jun | Jul   | Aug   | Sep | Oct   | Nov                                       | Dec 1999 | Jan 1999                | Feb | Mar |

The remaining two sites will be cleaned up later in the year. They are Confirmed Site 10 (CS10), a burial pit where a few drums with radiological markings were discovered in Oct. '94, and PRL-32, an old radioactive material storage area. The

document proposing cleanup on these sites will also be made available for public comment and will be given to the RAB community members for review. 

## McClellan to Move into Next Major Groundwater Cleanup Step

Currently, the community members of the Restoration Advisory Board are discussing and developing advice for the Air Force on the Phase 2 groundwater containment design. The Phase 2 design increases the amount of contaminated groundwater McClellan is cleaning up. McClellan has requested RAB advice on general community concerns and important issues the base should take into consideration from the community in making decisions during the Phase 2 groundwater design. Community concerns were a topic for discussion at the Jan. 21 RAB public meeting. Anyone with questions can call Chuck Yarbrough, Community Co-Chair for the RAB, at (916) 643- 0635, ext. 447.

In the groundwater Interim Record of Decision (IROD), McClellan and the regulatory agencies agreed to contain and cleanup contaminated groundwater. Containment was designed to take place in three phases during a period of several years. Each phase includes planning and design, construction, and evaluation to ensure containment is met. Full containment of the contaminated groundwater will be achieved after Phase 3.

Phase 1 was completed in Aug. '96, and captured contaminated groundwater plumes of high priority to the community. Phase 2 further captures contaminated groundwater on the base and identifies the remaining actions required to complete containment. Phase 3 will complete the containment of the contaminated groundwater by focusing on the northern side of the base.

1998 will be a year of physical construction on base in support of the Phase 2 groundwater containment. Twenty-six new extraction wells and 26 monitoring wells with 50 piezometers (wells used for gathering water level information) will be installed. The groundwater treatment plant capabilities will be expanded to handle 2,000 gallons per minute.

Phase 3 is scheduled to start in early 1999 with action completed in 2001. This phase will allow for full implementation of the groundwater IROD objectives of containing all groundwater on the base and protecting the public and environment from exposure to contaminated groundwater. 

## Changes and Improvements Since Groundwater Document was Signed in '95

In June 1995, McClellan Air Force Base's Basewide Groundwater Operable Unit Interim Record of Decision was finalized. This document, or IROD, laid out how the Air Force and Environmental Agencies plan to contain and cleanup the contaminated water that is below ground surface at McClellan. This water is called groundwater. The chosen solution was designed to contain and remove contaminated groundwater. Once removed, the groundwater is treated to better than drinking water standards.

Since the signing of this document, changes to the initial cleanup plan have occurred. Listed below are initial ideas along with the new plan:

### Initial Plan

Construct east side groundwater treatment plant for Operable Unit A (OU A) flows

Use treated water for on-base recycled water needs

Use airstripping with carbon treatment at proposed east side plant to treat east side flow

End use options for treated water are:

- Use as recycled water on base to the extent possible
- Inject back into the ground
- Sell to neighboring water districts
- Discharge to Magpie Creek

Estimated amount of groundwater extracted for treatment—1,080 gallons per minute (gpm)

### New Plan

More economical to expand existing west side groundwater treatment plant (GWTP) using existing pipeline to transport east side flow to west side GWTP

No demand for treated groundwater

Use carbon for wellhead pretreatment in OU A until wells are connected in Phase 2 and flows are sent to west side GWTP for treatment

Discharge treated water to sanitary sewer in OU A as new option, until connections made in Phase 2, and then total changing flow to Magpie Creek

Estimated amount of groundwater to be extracted for treatment based on data obtained from Phase 1—2,000 gpm of groundwater extracted for treatment after full implementation

## New Faces and Changing Roles

Paul Brunner, the Director of Environmental Management (EM), has assumed the role of Air Force Co-Chair of the Restoration Advisory Board. Elaine Anderson will be Paul's alternate.

Doris Bajka has been named Deputy Director of EM. Doris was previously head of the contracting support for EM.



Come visit McClellan's EM Home Page.  
Get information about the Information Repository.  
Visit us at:

<http://www.mcclellan.af.mil/EM>



## Environmental Action UPDATE

October 1997

The Environmental Action Update is an 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.

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Director of Environmental Management               | Paul Brunner          |
| Chief of Environmental Restoration                 | Elaine Anderson       |
| Director of Public Affairs                         | Capt. Robert Gonzales |
| Environmental Public Affairs Specialist and Editor | Margaret Gidding      |
| RAB Coordinator                                    | Jamie Cameron-Harley  |

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## Upcoming Meetings

RAB Training on Radiation  
February 5, 1998 6:30-8:30 pm  
269 D Conference Room

RAB Relative Risk Ranking Committee Meeting  
February 12, 1998 6-8 pm  
269 D Conference Room

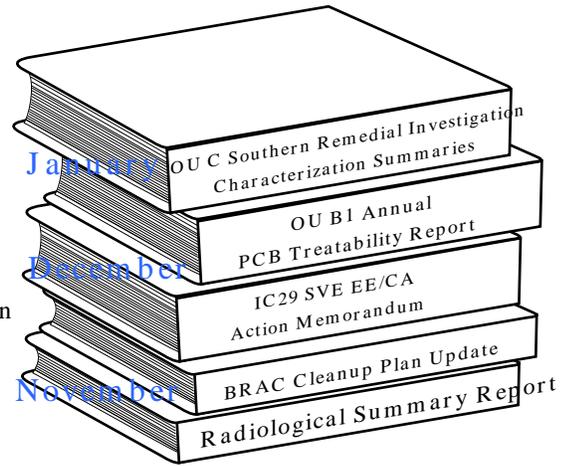
RAB Community Relations Committee Meeting  
March ~~6 8 8~~ ~~1 9 9 8~~  
269 D Conference Room

RAB Reuse/Technical Report Review  
Committee Meeting  
Representatives from the LRA will be present  
April 7, 1998 6-8 pm  
269 D Conference Room

RAB General Meeting  
April 22, 1998 6-9 pm  
Vineland School Auditorium  
6450 20th Street, Rio Linda

## 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 December 1st, 1997  
Pounds of Contamination  
Removed from Soil and Water:

# 720,000

Environmental Action

## UPDATE

Department of the Air Force  
SM-ALC/PAE  
5050 Dudley Blvd., Suite 3  
McClellan AFB, CA 95652-1389

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FOR MORE INFORMATION  
about McClellan's Installation Restoration  
Program, please call:

Margaret Gidding  
Community Relations Coordinator  
McClellan AFB  
(916) 643-1742 ex.354  
gidding.margaret@email.mcclellan.af.mil

Sue Sher  
Cal-EPA/DTSC  
Public Participation Specialist  
(916) 255-3647

Andy Bain  
U.S. EPA  
(415) 744-2186  
(800) 231-3075