

Nov 90

# THE FACTS

Information About  
Environmental Cleanup  
at McClellan AFB.

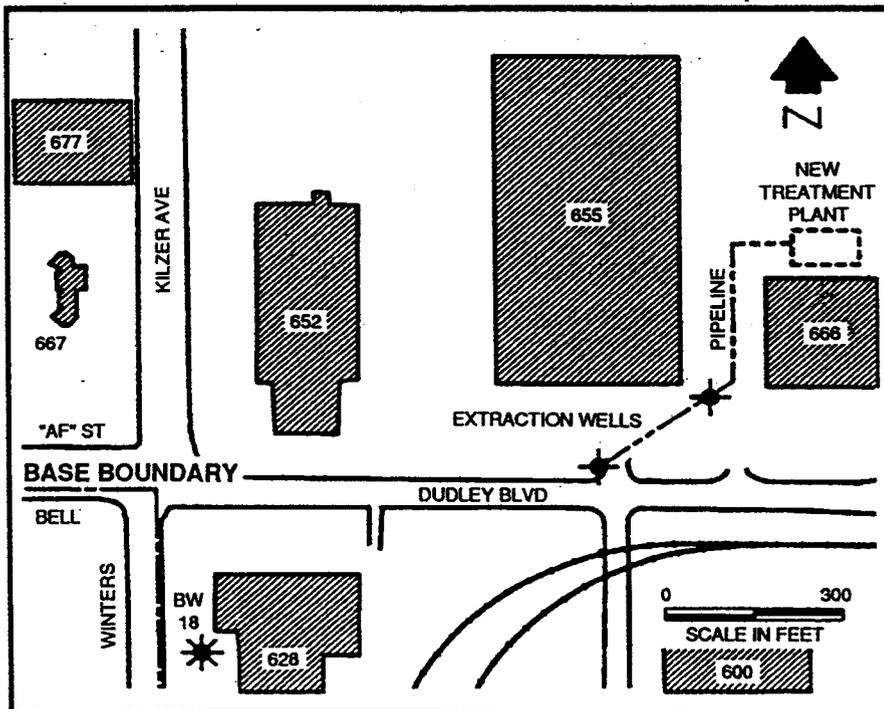
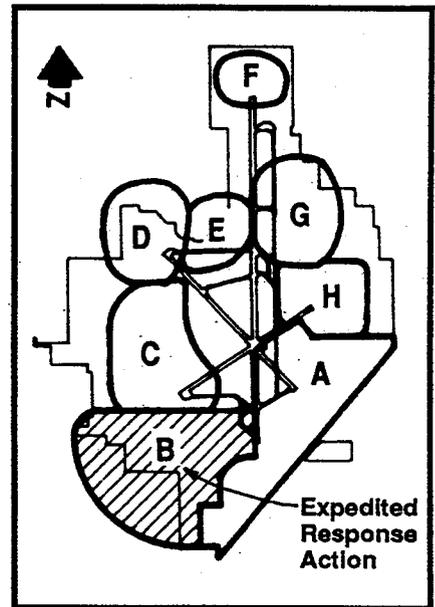
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## Operable Unit B Expedited Response Action

The cleanup process in Operable Unit B is a multi-phase operation. Under the goal of cleaning up contamination, each phase has a different objective. One project may have as its objective preventing health risks from developing; another, providing data for later efforts; and a

third to more thoroughly remediating -- or clean up -- contamination. As one part of this multi-phase operation, McClellan AFB, in conjunction with the Department of Health Services and the EPA, are conducting an Expedited Response Action (ERA) in Operable Unit B (OU B).



Extraction wells near Building 655 pump contaminated groundwater at a rate of about 20 gallons per minute. The water is piped to a nearby treatment plant. Contaminants are removed by an activated carbon filtration system.

The ERA is a removal action, a short-term action undertaken to prevent health risks from developing. Longer term, more thorough cleanup actions are addressed in the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, or RI/FS, portion of the base cleanup.

### The ERA Removes Contaminants from the Groundwater

Contaminants have been found in the groundwater beneath the southwest portion of

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the Base, known as OU B. Dissolved contaminants moving in the groundwater are commonly called plumes. The ERA focuses on the plume of contaminated groundwater moving slowly southwest from the Building 666 area toward Base Well 18. (Building 666 was a plating shop that was dismantled in 1988.)

The contaminants currently pose no threat to public health. Groundwater beneath OU B moves very slowly, 60 to 300 feet per year. The contaminants in this plume are concentrated in the shallow water-bearing zone, roughly 100 to 135 feet below the surface. The ERA removes contaminants in concentrations of over 100 parts per billion (ppb) before they can migrate further, and reach Base Well 18. Base Well 18 has a carbon filtration system that removes any contaminants from the water it pumps, before the water is distributed.

Construction of the ERA began in October 1990. Two extraction wells, located south of Building 655 (see Figure), are designed to pump groundwater at a rate of about 20 gallons per minute, about the same as 2 garden hoses turned on full. The extracted water is piped to a new treatment facility east of Building 655.

The treatment plant filters the water through activated carbon to remove the contaminants.

After treatment, the water is piped to the base's Industrial Wastewater Line. This pipeline carries it to the Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant, where it will be treated again before it is

discharged. This second treatment is not necessary, because the carbon filters will have removed the contaminants, but it's an additional precaution.

### Further Cleanup Planned

Several other actions to solve the problem of contamination are underway in OU B. The Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA), another removal action, is intended to remove contaminated groundwater in other parts of OU B.

For the longer term cleanup in OU B, the first step is studying 45 locations where chemicals may have been released to the environment. Starting in spring 1991, the OU B Remedial Investigation seeks to identify all the areas of soil and groundwater contamination in OU B. After that, a Feasibility Study evaluates cleanup alternatives.

To ensure that no new health risks develop, and to learn more about the contaminants in the groundwater, more than 60 monitoring wells are sampled regularly in OU B. Analytical results from those samples are shared with the agencies, and together the Base, DHS and EPA determine which areas will be focused on next.

### Public Involvement

The public has many opportunities to comment and offer suggestions on work in OU B. This includes a comment period on the ERA (May 1990) and on the EE/CA report (January 1991). Public representatives, who attend quarterly technical progress meetings, can answer questions also. Their phone numbers, along with the numbers of the community affairs coordinators, are shown in the box below.

**For More Information Contact**

<b>Community Affairs Coordinators</b>	<b>Public Representatives</b>
<p>Linda Trogdon McClellan AFB Environmental Management 643-3672</p> <p>Andrew Bain U.S. EPA (415) 744-2184</p> <p>Sue Sher DHS 855-7802</p>	<p>Burl Taylor County of Sacramento <del>916-222-2222</del></p> <p>Bob Wright AFGE Local 1857 <del>916-222-2222</del></p> <p>Chuck Yarbrough City of Sacramento <del>916-222-2222</del> (day) <del>916-222-2222</del> (eve.)</p>