

July 91

THE FACTS

Information About
Environmental Cleanup
at McClellan AFB

Produced by McClellan AFB Environmental Management

Number 9

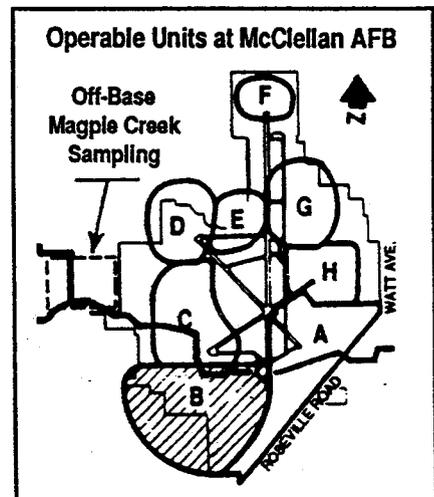
OPERABLE UNIT B REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

From May 1991 to June 1992, field crews will be sampling soils, surface water, and groundwater, and operating drilling rigs in the southwest portion of McClellan Air Force Base (AFB). This is part of the Operable Unit B (OU B) Remedial Investigation (RI), an integral part of this area's overall Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

Previous actions were taken in this area to address contaminants migrating toward water supply wells (see Fact Sheets 4 and 6). The focus now is to identify the sources of that contami-

nation. The investigation is a comprehensive effort to determine the magnitude and location of the contaminants in the Southwest area. It will also support the development, evaluation, and selection of appropriate response actions.

To make the RI/FS process more manageable, the Base has been divided into 8 separate areas, called Operable Units. Each will be investigated. Operable Unit B is the first to be investigated because of groundwater contamination found near off-base residential areas.



Crews will sample Magpie Creek off base, and drainage ditches on base to determine if contaminants were transported by surface waters.

Operable Unit B Remedial Investigation Phases

May 1991 - June 1992

Phase 1: Source Identification

May 1991 - January 1992

- Sampling of: streams, sediments, soil (shallow & deep), soil gas

Phase 2: Determine the Extent of Contamination

November 1991 - May 1992

- Additional soil & soil gas sampling, where necessary

Phase 3: Remedial Alternative Evaluation

April 1992 - June 1992

- Final data gathering
- Aquifer testing
- Identify cleanup goals

Risk Assessment

Besides identifying sources of contamination, the investigation includes an assessment of potential risks to human health and the environment. This data will help develop cleanup remedies.

Sampling Strategy

The first step in determining the extent of contamination is to

(Continued on Page 2.)



A technician carefully sterilizes a drilling rig before sampling boreholes.

(Continued from Page 1.)

conduct background sampling. Focusing on off-base areas unlikely to be contaminated, the study will identify concentrations of elements (mostly metals) that occur naturally in the ground. These will be compared with concentrations found at sites on base. The background investigation is performed early in the RI. Ten deep borings will be drilled at locations on and off base, and soil samples will be extracted and analyzed.

Once the background study is finished, the focus shifts to the 43 on-base sites. Not all 43 sites are known to be contaminated, but all have some history of activities or operations that may have affected the environment, whether it be a long history of chemical usage or a reported spill. The sites, and the sampling plan used in the RI, have been carefully evaluated

by the Air Force, DHS, and EPA. Specific field tasks include sampling surface water, stream sediments, soil, soil gas, and groundwater.

Creeks to be Sampled

First to be sampled, both on- and off-base, are sediments and surface water. Both the old and new channels of Magpie Creek (from base boundary to Raley Boulevard) will be sampled. On-base sampling will include drainage ditches and storm drains that collect water from on-base areas. This sampling will help determine if any contaminants were transported in surface waters, and caused either soil or groundwater contamination. Surface water samples will be collected by submersing sampling containers into the creek or ditch. Sediment samples will be collected from dry streambeds and drainage ditches.

More OU B Sampling

Next, soil samples will be collected by two methods: from hand auger borings at 8 sites, and hollow-stem auger drilling at 43 sites. Hand augering is primarily used to collect soil

samples to a depth of about 5 feet below ground surface.

Hollow-stem auger drilling, to collect soil and soil gas samples, is the next step in the field work. Approximately 450 hollow-stem auger borings at 43 sites will be drilled in OU B. Generally, soil samples will be collected continuously from 1 to 15 feet, and then at 20-foot intervals to a maximum depth of 95 feet. Soil gas samples will be collected from the borings at depths of 15 to 95 feet.

Monitoring wells will be installed during the investigation to determine if contamination at a site is affecting groundwater quality. Specific locations of these wells will be determined as the RI progresses and the need for additional groundwater data arises.

Reporting

The OU B Remedial Investigation will consist of a one-year concentrated field effort, from May 1991 to June 1992. A comprehensive report will be prepared during Phases 2 and 3 of the field effort. The report is scheduled for public release in mid-1993.

For More Information Contact

Community Affairs Coordinators	Public Representatives
<p>Victoria Merriweather 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 916-438-1355</p> <p>Bob Wright AFGE Local 1857 916-438-1355</p> <p>Chuck Yarbrough City of Sacramento 916-438-1355 (day) 916-438-1355 (eve.)</p>