

THE FACTS

Information About
Environmental Cleanup
at McClellan AFB

Produced by McClellan AFB Environmental Public Affairs

Number 15

Off-base Soil Vapor Sampling Project

This spring, McClellan AFB will conduct a soil vapor sampling program similar to one conducted along the northwest portion of the base last fall. This sampling project will take place in residential areas adjacent to the west side of the base to determine whether soil vapor contamination has moved off base.

The base will obtain permission from property owners to collect multiple soil samples at about 10 locations. The project is part of the ongoing Remedial Investigation, an environmental study conducted for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California EPA (Cal-EPA).

WHAT IS A SOIL VAPOR/GAS ?

Soil vapor, is a mixture of air, water and other chemicals in their gaseous state, and is often present in the ground. The vapor moves through the spaces between particles of soil and rock. This soil vapor can originate from fuel and solvent waste from past disposal practices.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS TO NEARBY RESIDENTS?

There is no indication at this time that harmful levels of soil

vapor contaminants are present in the air you breathe. The contaminants of concern at the boundary sites on base were found well below the surface.

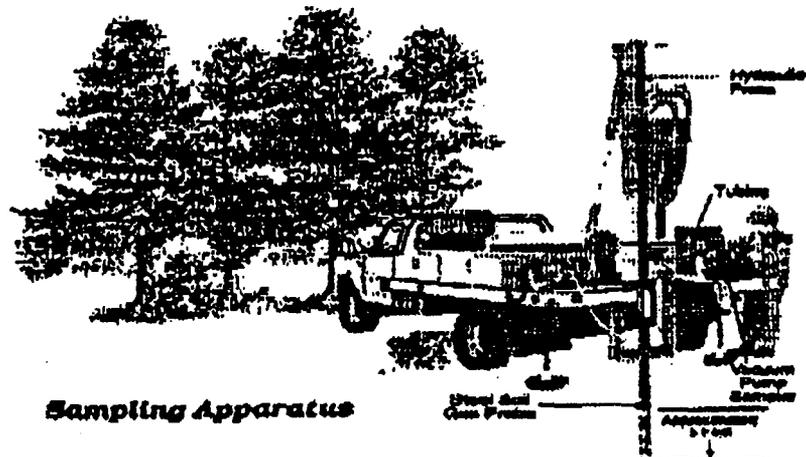
BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE INVESTIGATION

Between October 1991 and August 1992, field crews drilled more than 500 borings at 40 sites to obtain samples within the Operable Unit B (OU B) area, as part of the base's overall Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). Contaminated vapors were detected in the soil at a number of sites, including three along the western boundary of the base. Concerned with the potential underground buildup

and movement of the contaminated soil vapor on and off base, McClellan, along with the EPA and Cal-EPA, is conducting an investigation to determine the level and extent of soil vapor contamination.

WHY IS McCLELLAN CONDUCTING SAMPLING OFF BASE?

Some of the soil vapor compounds detected along the base boundary could be considered hazardous to human health. Although the contaminants were found to be far enough beneath the surface to preclude them from being released into the air, the data from the off base sampling will tell us whether the contaminants have migrated into those areas. This project will



Sampling Apparatus

help us determine whether the soil vapor is moving off base and, if so, how far it has moved. The sampling results will be used to help in determining the potential risk to human health and the environment.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT DURING THE SAMPLING?

Precautions will be taken before and during sampling and other field activities to ensure that the public is not exposed to soil vapor contaminants and that the sampling locations are left in the condition they were found.

McClellan will need to sample in open fields, parking lots and streets, using a specially equipped pickup truck. The base will request access agreements from property owners in advance to enter or pass through their properties during the project. Samples will be collected with a one-inch diameter probe, bored into the ground to depths ranging from several feet to 20 feet. Holes will be filled after each sample is collected, and noise from the equipment will be minimal.

Crews anticipate collecting will take about 30

minutes at each location and that the entire program should be completed in about two weeks. Each affected property will be given a copy of McClellan's work schedule, which will generally be between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Mon-Fri.

POINTS OF CONTACT

If you have concerns or questions about this project, please don't hesitate to contact any of the individuals listed here:

<i>Community Affairs Coordinators</i>	<i>Public Representatives</i>
<i>Debbie Hessel McClellan AFB Environmental Management (916) 433-0430</i>	<i>Ray McFines Del Zallanay AFGE Local 1857 (916) 233-0800</i>
<i>Dorothy Wilson U.S. EPA (415) 744-3134</i>	<i>Chuck Yarbrough City of Sacramento (916) 486-3335 (day) (916) 486-3300 (evening)</i>
<i>Sue Sha Cal-EPADTSC (916) 233-3647</i>	<i>Hurl Taylor Sacramento County (916) 744-6448</i>

