

THE FACTS

Information About
Environmental Cleanup
at McClellan AFB.

Produced by McClellan AFB Environmental Management

Number 18

Groundwater Operable Unit RI/FS Plan Available for Public Comment

The U.S. Air Force has completed a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) report on the Groundwater Operable Unit at McClellan AFB. The RI/FS report summarizes the remedy selection process, different cleanup alternatives, and the rationale behind the selected alternative. The public is encouraged to review the RI/FS and other site-related documents, as the Air Force is seeking public comment on the selected cleanup alternative.

There are several different agencies and regulators involved in the development of the proposed plan. The Department of Defense (DOD), through the Air Force Installation Restoration Program (IRP) is the lead agency for the McClellan site. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board are all contributing agencies to the IRP. The development of the proposed plan for remedial action is required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as authorized by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986.

The Air Force may modify the preferred cleanup alternative or select a different response based on new information or comments from the public. The public is encouraged to review and comment on the RI/FS during the public comment period, which is July 6 to August 5, 1994. The RI/FS may be viewed at the three information repositories listed on the back page of this factsheet.

Background

McClellan AFB was established as an aircraft repair depot and supply base in 1936. Due to the nature of the repair work, the use of many types of hazardous chemicals was required to accomplish the base's mission. Traditional chemical disposal practices of the time led to today's groundwater and soil contamination. In 1979, McClellan began environmental testing to determine the

extent of contamination that resulted from these past disposal practices. When the preliminary investigation was completed, it confirmed that shallow groundwater beneath the base was contaminated with Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). In 1981, the DOD developed the Installation Restoration Program to evaluate contamination problems at DOD installations.

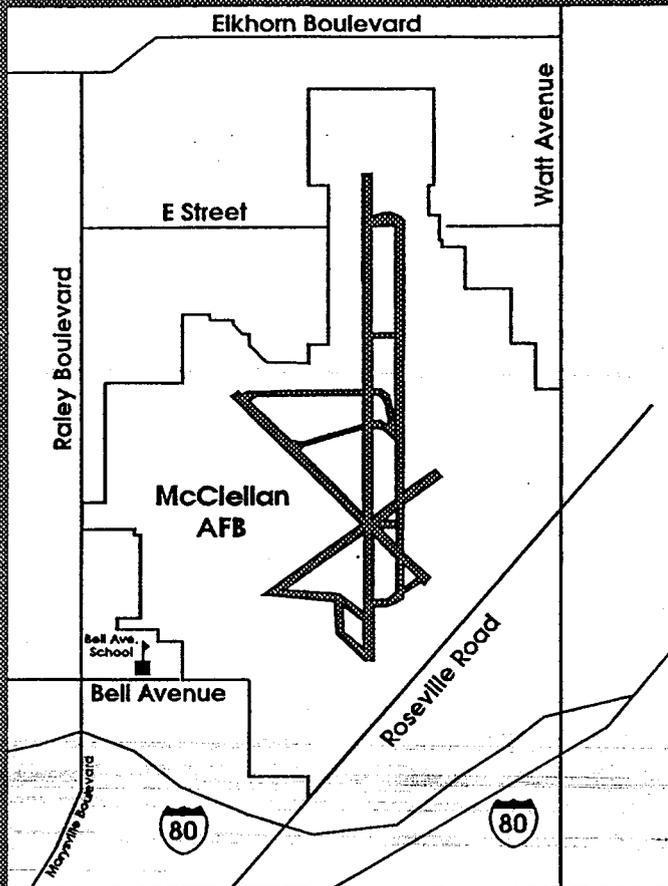
Groundwater Contamination

Soil and gas samples show the presence of contaminants in the area of soil between the ground surface and the water table. This area of soil is called the vadose zone. The contaminants in the vadose zone are considered the main cause of the groundwater contamination. This contamination exists in three forms: (1) contaminants attached to soil particles storing groundwater, (2) contaminants that cannot mix or dissolve in the water, (3) contaminants dissolved in the groundwater. All of the action alternatives in the RI/FS would contain contaminated groundwaters. The objectives of the cleanup alternatives are to protect public health and the environment; to prevent migration of the contaminants; to use innovative technologies to minimize the duration and cost of the cleanup action; and to comply with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements.

A public meeting will be held at the Bell Avenue School auditorium on July 20th, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. A presentation on the RI/FS will be made, and the public may obtain copies of the plan for review and comment. If advance copies of the RI/FS are desired, please submit a written request to:

~~Margaret Gidding
Department of the Air Force
SM-ALC/PA
5241 Arnold Avenue
McClellan AFB, CA 95632-5990~~

Opportunities for Community Involvement



Public Comment Period July 6 - August 5, 1994

This date has been changed from the initial public comment period from June 1-30, 1994

The public is encouraged to comment on the alternatives and site-related documents during the public comment period. Comments may be submitted orally or in writing at the public meeting, or your written comments can be sent postmarked no later than August 5th to:

Margaret Gidding
~~SM-ALC/PA~~
5241 Arnold Avenue
McClellan AFB, CA 95632-5990

Information Repositories

The RI/FS and site-related documents can be viewed at:

~~McClellan AFB Library
5703 Skvarla Avenue
McClellan AFB, CA
916/643-4640~~

~~McClellan AFB
Administrative Record
5050 Dudley Boulevard
McClellan AFB, CA
916/643-0545~~

~~Rio Linda/Elverta Community Center
810 Oak Lane
Rio Linda, CA
916/991-5929~~

Please call for Hours of Operation

Public Meeting Invitation

You are invited to attend the Public Meeting on the RI/FS Plan at the Bell Avenue School Auditorium, located at 1900 Bell Avenue on **Wednesday, July 20, 1994**, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

For More Information Call:

~~Margaret Gidding
Public Affairs
McClellan AFB
916/643-0950~~

~~Sue Sher
Cal-EPA
DTSC Public
Participation
916/255-3647~~

~~Dorothy Wilson
U.S. EPA Office of
Community Relations
415/744-2179
800/231-3075~~

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