



CS 10 Disposal Site Cleanup FACT SHEET

Produced by McClellan AFBCA

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Confirmed Site (CS) 10 is an inactive disposal site used from the early 1950s to the mid-1960s at the former McClellan Air Force Base to dispose of industrial waste, radioactive materials, and other hazardous wastes. The site covers nearly two acres and is located within the northwestern portion of the base.

CS 10 was first identified as an inactive disposal site in 1981. A review of aerial photographs and ground-penetrating radar surveys between 1984 and 1986 further defined the site. In an initial investigation in 1994, the Air Force identified drums marked with radioactive labels in the inactive disposal site. From 1997 to 2000, investigations of the site were conducted and cleanup documents were prepared.

In August 2000, the Air Force began removing surface contamination and investigating the contents of the buried drums a non-time critical removal action. Base officials expected to uncover sources of radiation, primarily radium 226, which was commonly added to paint applied to aircraft gauges and instruments for night-time illumination. Safety precautions to explore for radioactive materials were followed.

Plutonium Discovery

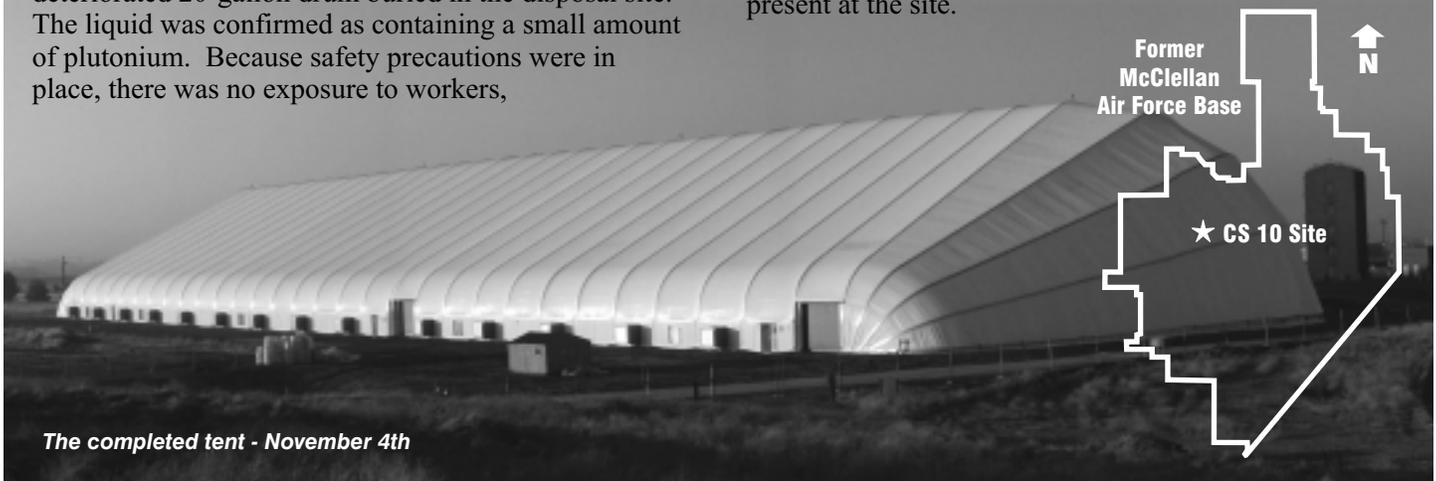
In September 2000, work was halted on the site when several small jars and vials of liquid labeled plutonium were discovered. The jars and vials were packed in a deteriorated 20-gallon drum buried in the disposal site. The liquid was confirmed as containing a small amount of plutonium. Because safety precautions were in place, there was no exposure to workers,

employees, or residents when the plutonium was discovered. The bottles and vials containing plutonium were removed from the base following strict Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Department of Transportation procedures. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a facility licensed to research radioactive material, is using the plutonium for academic research.

Time Critical Removal Action

With the unexpected discovery of plutonium, the Air Force, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and Regional Water Quality Control Board agreed that a Time Critical Removal Action of the site was appropriate. A Time Critical Removal Action is an expedited cleanup process protective of public health and the environment that requires that a work plan be prepared. The final work plan was issued in July 2001 and is available to the public at McClellan's Administrative Record (*see back page for address*).

The work to prepare and winterize the site began immediately. The goals for the work at CS 10 include removal of all drums and their contents, as well as soils contaminated with radionuclides and hazardous wastes. These goals are designed to eliminate the potential human and environmental exposure from the contaminants present at the site.



The completed tent - November 4th

Excavation of Soils and Debris

The removal action at CS 10 involves excavating contaminated soil and debris from the inactive disposal site. Excavation at CS 10 includes two types of digging: mechanical excavation and hand digging. Mechanical excavation is being used for soil removal until drums are encountered. Excavation and removal of

drums are being accomplished by hand digging in order to preserve the drums. The soil and debris are being evaluated to determine what hazardous or radiological contaminants are present before being transported to an appropriate licensed disposal facility.

Weatherization Tent

In October 2001, a weatherization tent to protect the site from wind, rain, and sun was constructed. The tent allows workers to remove radioactive material and buried waste in a controlled environment year round, making the cleanup more cost-effective. In addition, rainwater cannot get onto the site, avoiding the need for special disposal of the water. The protection from wind and dust ensures safety during excavation. Once excavation is complete, the resulting hole will remain covered by the tent until the project is verified as meeting its cleanup goals.

The tent is approximately 66 feet tall and 205 feet wide by 630 feet long and covers the entire landfill and immediate work area. It is anchored to the earth, and designed and constructed to ensure conformance with all applicable local building codes, including the requirements for earthquake and highest recorded local wind conditions.



Appropriate personal safety equipment is worn by those inside the tent at all times.

The tent is equipped with fans to keep air circulating and to vent heavy equipment engine exhaust from the tent. Filters are used to reduce the potential for airborne contaminant migration.

A drainage system has been dug around the perimeter of the tent to capture rain runoff from the tent and soil immediately around the site. Plastic liners have been placed in the trenches to prevent water infiltration into the ground. The drainage system leads to existing channels and ultimately a seasonal stream, Don Julio Creek, south of the site.



Until drums are reached, mechanical excavators are being used to remove the soil.

The drum inventory tent, shown here at the far end of the weatherization tent, is where all excavated drums are sorted for disposal.

A smaller tent, called the drum inventory tent, is located within the weatherization tent. This tent is where all drums and their contents are inventoried and sorted for proper disposal. Workers use appropriate personal safety equipment and the air inside the tent is continually monitored. A high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter system exhausts through an opening in the drum inventory tent. The exhaust is monitored for airborne radiological contaminants.

Safety Measures

The safety of the workers and the community is the first priority. The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District and county sheriff's department are fully prepared to handle any emergency. To verify there is no airborne radioactivity, 24-hour air monitoring stations have been positioned around the perimeter of the site to detect airborne contaminants. Air samples are collected daily and are analyzed for radiation levels.

Air monitoring systems have been operating at the site since the first work began in August of 2000. This monitoring has shown no radiological exposure or airborne radioactivity that would affect worker or public safety. Groundwater under the site continues to be monitored for radionuclides. No

Continuous air monitoring systems on all four sides of the site work around the clock.



radiological contaminants have been detected in

groundwater. Groundwater is encountered about 100 feet below the surface of the soil.

Dust control is essential to minimize the spread of radioactive contaminants inside the weatherization tent. A water tanker equipped with a fogging nozzle is maintained on site and used to suppress dust as needed around excavation and traffic areas.

Waste Management Procedures

All radioactive and hazardous waste excavated from CS 10 is being tracked from excavation through final disposal. The waste is stored, transported, and disposed of in compliance with all pertinent federal, state, and local regulations and requirements.

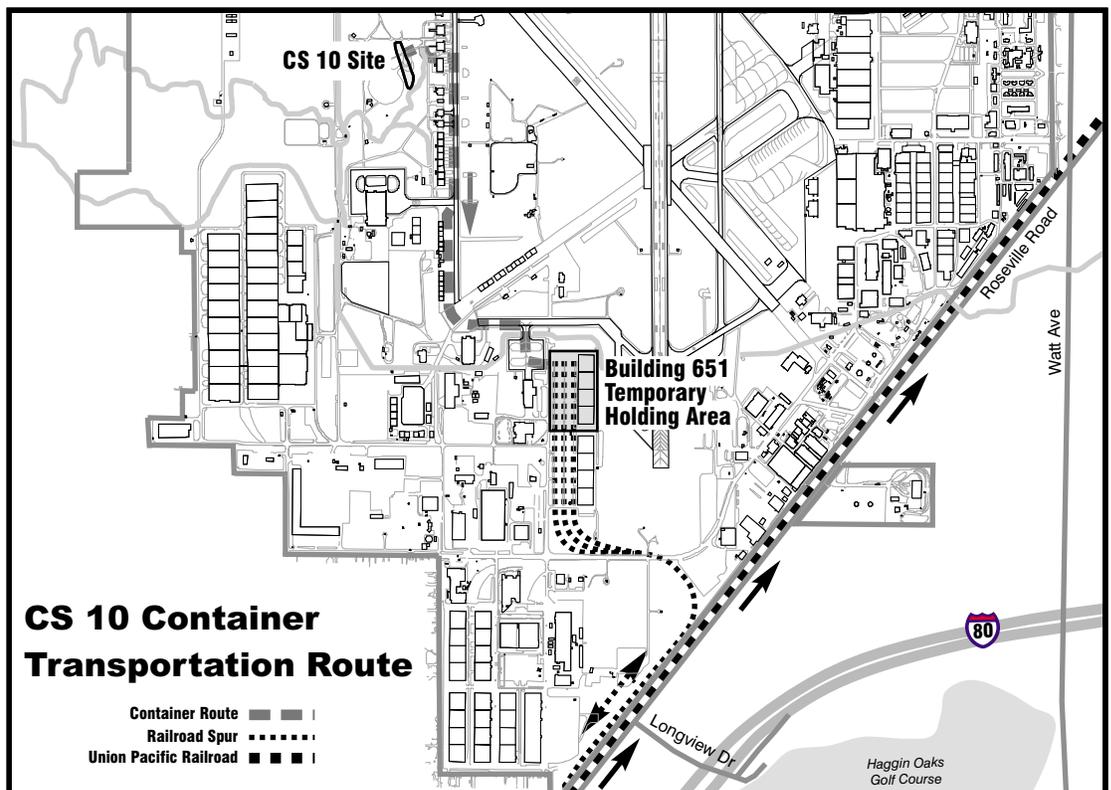
The cleanup includes the removal of approximately 33,000 cubic yards of soil and debris which is loaded into shipping containers under controlled conditions at CS 10. Loading operations are performed within the tent covering the CS 10 site.

Once a container of soil has been filled, sealed and locked for shipment, the outside of the container is surveyed for radioactivity.

How the Waste Is Transported

The locked containers are transported approximately one mile away from the CS 10 site to an area near the Building 651 slab (as shown on the map) that is fenced and locked to prevent unauthorized access. The containers

remain sealed in the temporary holding area approximately 30 days until all sample results are received and disposal paperwork is completed. The containers are then moved by rail truck from the temporary holding area to the rail spur staging area, approximately 200 yards away. The rail cars are then moved to the Union Pacific main track adjacent to McClellan. Rail cars are under security guard surveillance while awaiting pickup by the main line of the railroad.



Emergency Response at McClellan

The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (SMFD) assumed jurisdiction for emergency response at McClellan Park in April 2001. The CS 10 emergency response work plan has been discussed and coordinated with the SMFD and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. These agencies have been briefed on the CS 10 site work. A walk-through of the entire site has been completed to ensure that the fire and sheriff departments have a working knowledge of the site. The fire and sheriff departments are fully prepared for any emergency.

Anticipated Closure Date of CS 10

Removal of contaminated soil and debris at CS 10 is expected to take approximately one year to complete. The results of the removal actions at CS 10 will be reported in a Removal Action Completion Report/Final Status Survey Report (RACR/FSSR) and will undergo regulatory review. The site will be filled with clean dirt once it is confirmed and documented that site cleanup goals have been accomplished. This is anticipated to occur in the spring of 2004.

Following the final report, a proposed plan will be available for public review. This will be the opportunity for the community to comment on the cleanup action taken. This will be followed by a record of decision.

The public will be kept up to date on the project through quarterly public meetings and updates in the quarterly newsletter.

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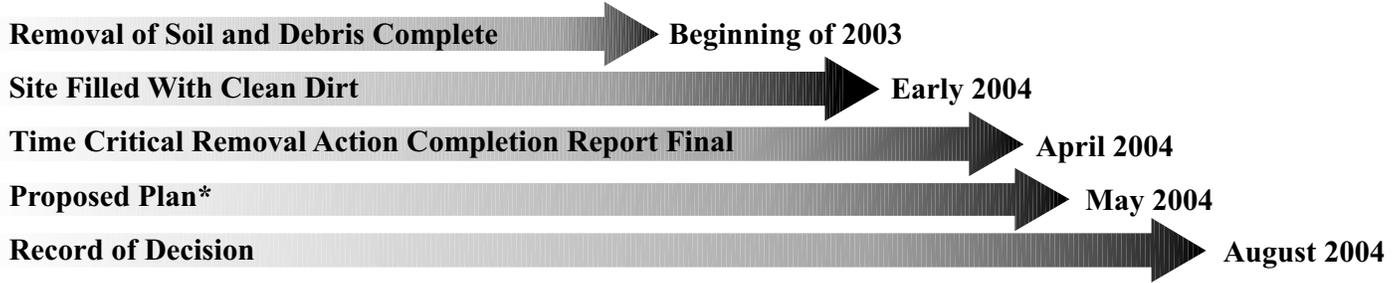
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Administrative Record
Building 10, 3411 Olson Street,
McClellan, CA
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www.afbca.hq.af.mil/mcclellanem/

CS 10 Schedule

** Available for Public Comment*



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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

CS 10 Landfill Cleanup
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