



Edwards Air Force Base
95th Air Base Wing
Environmental Management

Report to **STAKEHOLDERS**

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NESTING

Migratory birds return to base next month to nest and raise young

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Report to STAKEHOLDERS

Report to Stakeholders is a publication of Edwards Air Force Base, 95th Air Base Wing, Environmental Management. Its purpose is to inform and educate the public, base workers and residents about continuing environmental and safety efforts on base. It currently has a circulation of 6,000, including about 2,000 subscribers.

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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

The *Report to Stakeholders* staff asked Environmental Management's leadership to share their top professional and personal resolutions for 2008 with our readers.

PROFESSIONAL RESOLUTION

"I promise that in 2008, I will express more clearly my appreciation for the great support we receive from our excellent support contractor folks, both at the technical level and in their positive professional daily interactions with us — a great team effort."



PERSONAL RESOLUTION

"I promise to achieve ten consecutive pull-ups daily on the pull-up bars behind the main base gym. Spectators welcome! (Approx: 1630)"

GERALD CALLAHAN, Environmental Conservation division chief

PROFESSIONAL RESOLUTION

"I promise to play a greater role in energy conservation here at the Flight Test Center. I will also continue to seek out new types of fuel for use here at the Air Force Flight Test Center."



PERSONAL RESOLUTION

"I promise to walk or run 10-15 minutes every day during the lunch hour."

HERB RORABACK, Environmental Quality division chief



What's on the cover?

PERCHING — *Costa's hummingbirds, like the one shown on the cover, are one of many species of migratory birds that nest and raise young during the nesting season on base, which falls between February and July. Base residents and workers can read about nest-proofing areas around their homes or offices on pages 6 and 7.*

Black ice can be dangerous during winter months

For California drivers, black ice doesn't carry the recreational sentiment it carries in New England where the term sometimes is used to describe the glass-like pond ice that is ideal for skating. Black ice in California usually means slippery areas and hazardous road conditions.

Black ice is a thin sheet of transparent ice that forms when extremely cold rain droplets, mist or fog merge then freeze. Though the ice is clear, it appears black because the dark asphalt surface underneath it shows through.

It often catches drivers off guard because it causes the road to appear wet rather than icy.

"Black ice can be one of the most dangerous conditions on winter roads," said Regina Coffey, from the Edwards Air Force Base Safety Office. "It is almost invisible and can catch drivers off guard."

This type of ice can form from auto emissions on heavily congested highways. However, other roads are susceptible as well, including those on overpasses, in tunnels or in shaded areas, and near lakes and rivers. Drivers can expect little to no

traction, little to no braking ability and extremely poor directional control when encountering black ice.

Black ice can form even when the temperature is above the freezing point of water if there are high winds or steep changes in temperatures. It can be neutralized with salt or sand. Yet salt loses its effectiveness at about 15 degrees Fahrenheit. If temperatures are below 15 degrees, the California Department of Transportation uses sand or de-icing liquids that are effective at lower temperatures.

RTS

ICE SAFETY TIPS

- Be aware that black ice is almost invisible.
- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses, tunnels and in the early morning hours when the air temperature rises faster than the pavement temperature.
- Never brake while driving on ice. Applying pressure to your brakes while on ice will cause a vehicle to skid. Brake only during your approach.
- Keep your distance. The distance needed to stop on ice is twice as long as it is under normal driving conditions. Keep at least a three-car distance between your car and the vehicle directly in front of you, even at slow speeds.



WINTER EMERGENCY CAR KIT CHECKLIST

Before heading out this winter, make sure your car is prepared for an emergency in case you become stranded.

Be sure your car or vehicle contains at least these items:

- An inflated spare tire, wheel wrench and jack
- A shovel
- Jumper cables
- A bag of salt, sand or kitty litter
- A tool kit
- A tow chain or rope
- A survival kit, which should contain:
 - A flashlight with extra batteries
 - An ice scraper and snow brush
 - A first aid kit
 - Nonperishable, high-energy foods like nuts, dried fruit and hard candy
 - Extra pairs of socks, gloves, hats and blankets

Base community protects natural and cultural resources

This year, Environmental Management's Volunteer Program paved dynamic volunteering paths for the base community, giving residents, employees and their family members a chance to be actively involved in the protection of natural and cultural resources at Edwards Air Force Base.

"Not only does the work that volunteers do expand our environmental efforts, it gives them a sense of ownership in this community and specifically, in what they've contributed to it," said Wendelyn Leon, the volunteer program coordinator.

The one-year-old program serves as a tool for giving the base community an inside look at the work done to protect and conserve the environment, and a chance to contribute to community development and well-being.

"We have volunteers who help our biologists with bird releases at different locations on base. Some of the volunteers occasionally visit the areas where they have released the rehabilitated birds, to check on the birds or see if they are still hanging around," Leon said. "That sort of personal interest and ownership is what drives the volunteer program."

There are currently 22 people participating in the Environmental Management Volunteer Program activities that protect the base's natural and cultural resources. These volunteers help with transporting wildlife to and from off-base rehabilitation centers, releasing rehabilitated wildlife into natural habitat, monitoring off-road vehicle areas, guiding tours, cataloging artifacts, briefing base personnel and more.

"The volunteer program is a great way to learn about the base from a new perspective — management and protection," said Jennifer Beich, a biologist at Environmental Management (EM). "It's a way to be exposed to the 'inside' information about current issues and concerns as well as have firsthand contact with biologists and other leading environmental managers who we work with.

"Having volunteers working alongside us has reduced the amount of time we need to spend monitoring off-road vehicle areas and in transporting birds to and from rehabilitation



FEEDING — Amber Bruno, a biologist at Environmental Management is seen here feeding a red-tailed hawk as TSgt Travis Buckley looks on. Base biologists found the Raptor in December 2007, and with the help of volunteers, were able to get it treated at the Ojai Raptor Center. Sergeant Buckley transported the bird to Ojai.

centers," Beich added.

While conducting a large task for the cultural resources department at EM, archaeologists enlisted the help of volunteers to catalog artifacts. A couple of the volunteers took a personal interest in the task and assisted the archaeologists whenever they could until the task was completed.

"The volunteers helped a great deal in getting the thousands of artifacts from the town of Muroc tagged and bagged for curation," said Apasara Nicol-Bark, an archaeologist at EM. "They came in whenever they could, sometimes even coming in during their lunch breaks to help us out and the task was finished in good time because of their help."

Volunteers of all ages worked alongside professional biologists, archaeologists and community relations specialists to protect the environment and share knowledge in the past year.

"The volunteers are increasing awareness of our mission, in general, to a diverse base population that may otherwise not be informed," Beich said. "They are educating others by word of mouth and spreading the word on the importance of protecting our wildlife and not collecting anything on base such as cultural resources or bird feathers.

"The program opens up a new aspect for volunteers toward

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting HIGHLIGHTS

The following report highlights the Nov. 15, 2007, Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting in North Edwards, Calif.

- Sites 5/14 Contaminant Plume In Situ Chemical Oxidation (ISCO) Treatability Study** — Restoration experts at Edwards Air Force Base installed a horizontal well at Operable Unit 2, South Base, in spring 2007. They injected potassium permanganate, through the well, into an area of contaminated groundwater and monitored its effectiveness at breaking down the contaminant, trichloroethene. Trichloroethylene, or TCE, is a solvent that was used to clean metal parts. The goal of the treatability study is to apply treatment across the entire width of a TCE plume that stretches 5,600 feet from Site 5 to Site 14. The injected potassium permanganate reacts with the TCE in the groundwater and breaks down the contaminant into harmless byproducts. According to Rebecca Hobbs, South Base program manager, results indicate that the flow velocities of groundwater from the horizontal well are not uniform across the plume. Not all monitoring wells located down gradient from the horizontal well have shown potassium permanganate. However, where the potassium permanganate has been detected, the TCE contaminant levels are greatly reduced. Hobbs plans to use data from this study to design a full-scale treatment system for the entire 5,600-foot plume. Monitoring activities for the treatability study are expected to run until May 2008.
- Update on the Military Munitions Response Program Comprehensive Site Evaluation (CSE) Phase II: Results of the HeliMag and Discussion of Follow-on Efforts** — Paul Schiff, program manager for the Military Munitions Response Program, presented results from the most recent helicopter magnetometry, also known as HeliMag, and visual surveys performed at inactive Munitions Response Areas (MRAs) on or adjacent to the base. HeliMag surveys were completed in June 2007 and visual surveys are being conducted to confirm the presence or absence of munitions. Survey results show no indication of munitions or explosives of concern (MECs) across any MRAs, with the exception of one 150-pound PhotoFlash bomb found in an off-site MRA south of the base boundary. The Explosives Ordnance Disposal team moved the bomb to the active bombing range and will detonate it at a later date. In addition, nonhazardous munitions debris was found within the MRAs. Although soil sampling is not generally warranted unless MEC is encountered, Schiff and his team expect to conduct soil sampling in 45 different munitions debris areas to detect the presence of munitions constituents, such as TNT, that may remain. These activities are part of the second phase of the Military Munitions Response Program, established to investigate and clean up closed military ranges at active military installations. Schiff predicts the Phase II activities will conclude by November 2008. Following the CSE Phase II, sites requiring further characterization will undergo a more rigorous remedial investigation phase before cleanup is proposed.



DRILL HEAD — The program manager for Sites 5/14 reported the cleanup status for the sites containing the first horizontal treatment well at Edwards. This is one of the drill heads used to install the well last spring.

The next quarterly RAB meeting will be on Feb. 21, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. in Mojave, Calif. The venue is to be determined at a later time. For more information on the RAB, you may refer to the back page of this newsletter under RAB Information.

recreation, conservation and appreciation of the environment on base," she added. "Plus it provides a different angle of enjoying the outdoors and supporting the mission at the same time."

Leon said that new opportunities for volunteer participation will be opening up in the coming year. "We are looking to start regularly scheduled tours to different areas on base and will definitely need help for Environmental Management's Earth Day celebration in the spring," she said. "The opportunities are open and not only help us protect the environment, but can give volunteers great experience in public speaking, planning, writing, surveying and more. They can learn valuable job skills through the program, all while supporting the mission and giving back to their community."

"In the past year, we've built a core group of volunteers who

are passionate about conserving and protecting natural and cultural resources on base," Leon said.

The program is currently recruiting volunteers from the base community, including active duty military and their dependents, employees and contractors assigned to Edwards Air Force Base. Volunteer activities can take place any day of the week and there is no time requirement or age limit for volunteering. Those interested in volunteering with the Environmental Management Volunteer Program can obtain more information and an application for the program by calling Leon at (661) 277-2436 or Environmental Management at (661) 277-1401.

NESTING

Migratory birds return to base next month to nest and raise their young

Every year migratory birds return to Edwards Air Force Base, and for some residents and workers this marks a time for setting up bird baths and feeders, pulling out a pair of binoculars and sitting back to enjoy the birds. Sometimes, though, these birds decide to set up their nests and raise their young in a location that creates a nuisance. Base biologists recommend taking preventive measures before nesting season — which falls between February and July — to keep migratory birds from nesting in unwanted areas of houses, facilities and schools. Once a migratory bird has set up a nest and eggs are laid, it is illegal to move it.

“It’s important to educate base residents and employees about

how to share the environment with the birds because Edwards Air Force Base is home to over 200 species of birds, most of which are protected under the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act*,” said Mark Bratton, a biologist at Environmental Management.

The *Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918* was enacted to prevent the taking, collecting, harming or moving of migratory birds, their feathers, eggs, parts and active nests — a nest with eggs or young in it. Violators may incur fines or imprisonment and sometimes both. Fines can be up to \$15,000 and imprisonment can be up to six months.

In the early 1900s, migratory birds were hunted for their feathers, eggs, parts and nests. These items were used in fashion accessories, artifacts and as food, according to Mark Hagan, natural resource manager at Environmental Management.

“Hunters mastered their skills to the point that some migratory birds were actually going extinct,” Hagan said. “So in 1918, the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* was signed to protect these birds.”

Migratory birds often nest in large trees, uncovered attic vents and partially to completely secluded flat surfaces that are high up, like eaves, shelves and ledges. However, residents and workers are not without recourse if they find that they’ve missed a spot after nest-proofing their areas; beginnings of nests can be removed as long as there are no eggs or young in them.

GUARDIANS — *The ravens, below, are seen here guarding a nest they placed in a Joshua tree on base. These large birds, often seen rummaging through trash or clearing road kill, are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, making it illegal to take, move, harm or collect them, or any of their parts, including nests, eggs and feathers.*

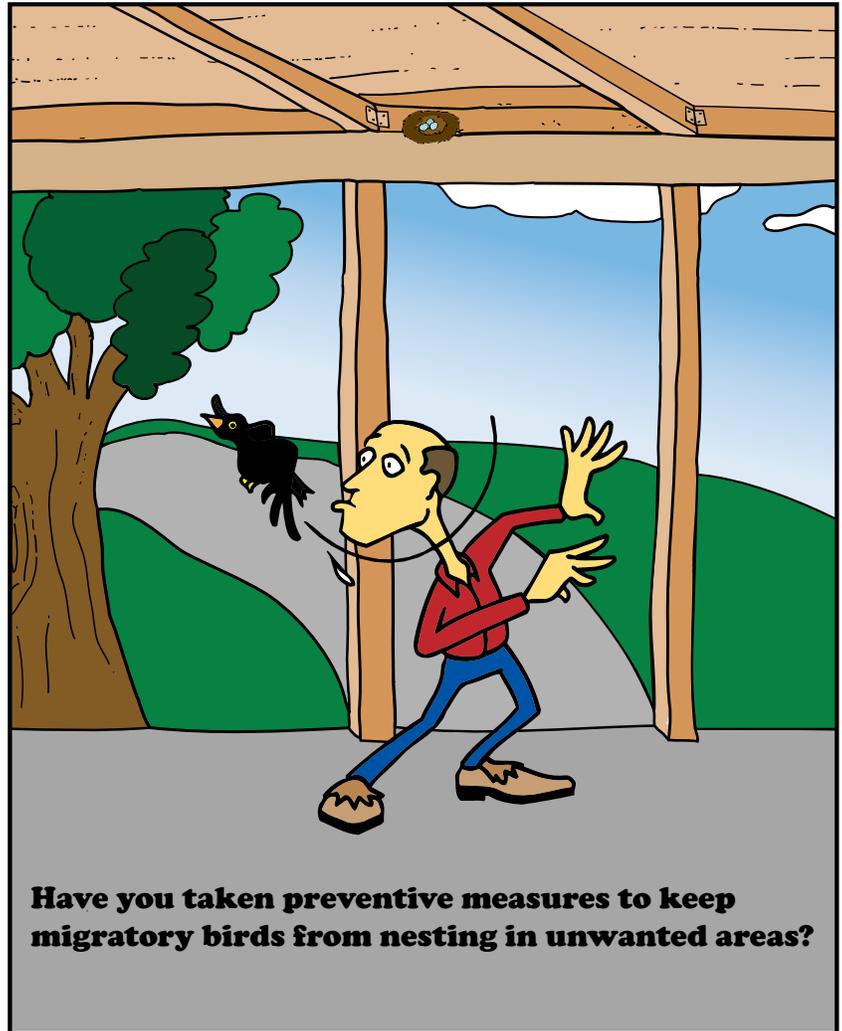


“The key to discouraging birds from nesting is to be persistent. There have been times when we remove nests that are clear of eggs or young and see the birds taking new nesting materials to the same location to try to rebuild the nest,” Bratton said. “That’s why it’s important to take measures that discourage birds from nesting prior to and during the nesting season.”

Some of the most common migratory birds found in base housing and business areas are the Brewer’s blackbird, the house finch, the Say’s phoebe and even the common raven. A complete list of birds covered under the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918*, is available at www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/intrnltr/mbta/mbtandx.html.

The commander’s access channel will broadcast an 8-minute video for residents from February through July. It features information on how to share our environment with migratory birds and the laws that protect them. Base residents who miss the video broadcasts can pick up a copy of the video at the Housing Office. In addition, base schools will show students a shorter video, geared for children, on living with birds. Housing construction and demolition workers can view a copy geared for their line of work by contacting the Environmental Management office at (661) 277-1401.

RTS



Have you taken preventive measures to keep migratory birds from nesting in unwanted areas?

Here are some preventive measures biologists recommend taking before and during nesting season:



Residents can:

- Cover attic vents with wire mesh
- Fill holes in bricks
- Remove or alter flat surfaces
- Enclose eaves with wire mesh
- Prune vegetation



Housing demolition and construction workers can:

- Enclose all attic vents and eaves with wire mesh
- Alter or remove flat surfaces
- If windows and doors are to be removed, replace these openings with poly sheeting, boards or like materials
- Ensure other openings are covered with poly sheeting, boards or like materials
- Remove trees and bushes on the same day they are cleared by a professional biologist



Workers can:

- Make sure all eaves around facility or patio areas are enclosed with wire mesh
- Remove or alter flat surfaces

An oasis in the Mojave desert

Edwards Air Force Base isn't all dry lakebeds and sand formations. There is an oasis in the desert, and it's called Piute Ponds.

Piute Ponds encompasses approximately 400-800 acres in the southwestern corner of the base. The ponds are a series of interconnected surface-water impoundments whose primary water source is treated effluent from the Los Angeles County District 14 Wastewater Treatment Facility — Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant (LWRP) — located just outside the western boundary of the base. Six to 12 million gallons of treated effluent are sent to

Piute Ponds each day, and the ponds contain water year-round.

As a result, desert wildlife and waterfowl are attracted to the area. In fact, Piute Ponds is located within the Pacific Flyway — one of the four major north-south migration corridors in North America that migratory birds follow during their spring and fall migrations. The base allows educational activities, nature study, bird watching and seasonal duck hunting at the ponds; however, public access must be authorized in advance because the ponds are located on Air Force property.

“Piute Ponds is a great place to just hang out for a few hours whether you're a bird watcher, duck hunter, or just enjoy nature in general,” said Robert Wood, director of Environmental Management.

Bird watching is an ideal recreational activity at the ponds because the area supports more than 200 species of birds. Aquatic birds such as grebes, geese, ducks, plovers, sandpipers, gulls and terns have been seen at Piute Ponds. According to

the LWRP's *2004 Environmental Impact Report (EIR)*, the dry land habitats near the ponds support such wildlife as flycatchers, hummingbirds, thrushes, warblers, sparrows and others.

Piute Ponds is also used by shorebirds both during migration and by birds staying over for the winter. According to the LWRP's *2004 EIR*, peak migration times are from mid-March to early May and from July to September. However, a large number of shorebirds may remain during the winter, depending on water and mudflat conditions.

School tours and other recreational activities at Piute Ponds can be arranged by calling the Environmental Management office at (661) 277-1401.

RTS

NEIGHBORHOOD BIRDS — *The double-crested cormorant, left, and western grebe, below, are two of many species of birds that frequent Piute Ponds. According to biologists, more than 200 bird species have been spotted on base with most of them seen at this desert oasis.*



Edwards participates in National Recycling Coalition Campaign

It's been a decade since the first America Recycles Day was celebrated across the country on Nov. 15, 1997. Now, the annual event is also recognized at Edwards Air Force Base as a day to encourage base residents and employees to think about what they're throwing away before placing items in the garbage cans.

Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), America Recycles Day is a partnership between government, industry and environmental organizations to promote and encourage recycling nationwide. The day is an important part of the U.S. EPA's drive to achieve a 35 percent national recycling rate.

Statistics from the National Recycling Coalition show that campaigns such as America Recycles Day are changing how Americans view recycling. Only one curbside recycling program existed in the U.S. 20 years ago. Today, there are more than 10,000. The U.S. now recycles 33 percent of its waste — a rate that has almost doubled during the past 15 years. More Americans are beginning to understand that recycling saves energy and landfill space.

According to the U.S. EPA, if Americans recycled the 48 billion aluminum cans that are thrown away each year, they could save the equivalent of 24 million barrels of oil.

In 2006, the U.S. produced 251 million tons of municipal solid waste, approximately 4.6 pounds of waste per person per day. The majority of that material was actually recyclable. Paper, yard waste, motor oil, tires, plastic, glass, batteries, building materials and obsolete electronic products are some of the thousands of products that can be recycled.

At Edwards, and across the country, recycling provides numerous environmental benefits including:

- Conserving energy and natural resources;



BOOTHS — Gary Schafer, a solid waste and recycling specialist, is seen here discussing recycling habits with Richard Ketchum, who is retired from the Air Force and Civil Service. Environmental Management employees set up an informational exhibit at the Base Exchange, Nov. 15, in recognition of America Recycles Day.

- Providing feedstock for key domestic industries;
- Reducing air and water pollution; and
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

America Recycles Day, celebrated on Nov. 15 every year, is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to encouraging Americans not only to recycle, but also to buy recycled products. Each year, people across the country resolve to change their recycling habits both at home and at work, while participating in recycling events.



PLASTICS — These plastic items, along with children's toys and battery-operated cars, are recyclable. Every plastic item has a number on it indicating which recyclable category it is in according to the density of the plastic.

RODs start final cleanup at Edwards

With three Records of Decision (RODs) signed and released, and nearly a dozen more due in the coming years, the Edwards Air Force Base Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) is starting to transition from identifying and investigating hazardous waste sites into final cleanup action.

Cleanup activities on base follow the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980* (CERCLA), which is a law that dictates how historical hazardous waste should be cleaned up and requires the parties responsible for the contamination to conduct or pay for the cleanup. A ROD follows the identification and investigation phases of this act and outlines cleanup strategy for a designated area of the base.

The base is divided geographically into operable units, or OUs, that contain multiple contaminated sites. Sites within an OU are managed based on the environmental media contaminated, such as soil or groundwater. As a result, one OU can have more than one ROD. Fourteen RODs are needed to cover the 301,000 acres that make up the base.

The Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) — a document signed by base officials and state and federal regulators — outlines timelines for cleanup phases of the different contaminated areas on the base. Regulators can propose changes to the FFA schedule for each area, and if the base restoration experts accept the changes, they are responsible for meeting those revised schedules. Alternatively, base restoration experts can propose changes to the FFA schedule and ask for concurrence from the regulators. Ai Duong, Restoration Division chief at Environmental Management, feels confident in his team's ability to meet the FFA require-

ments.

"We have been in the process of cleaning up contamination through the use of remediation studies and interim removal actions," Duong said. "This learning process has given us years of experience with our contaminated sites. We know what will work and what won't work."

During the feasibility study, base restoration experts research different cleanup methods, evaluate each method and identify one that is most effective and cost efficient at the given site or area. Duong and his team seek input from regulators and the public before a final cleanup solution is presented in the ROD. Before a ROD is finalized, a Proposed Plan, presenting the proposed cleanup alternative, is made available for public review and comments. Environmental Management organizes

public meetings to seek public comments on the proposed alternative. Then, cleanup system construction, operation and site closeout follow the ROD.

"The cleanup system needs to be designed, installed and operational within 15 months of the ROD being signed," Duong said.

"We will continue

to keep the Restoration Advisory Board informed on what we are doing and how things are progressing," Duong added. "The concerns and feedback we receive from these community representatives will remain an important part of our cleanup program."

As a means of promoting two-way communication between the Air Force and the public, the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meets quarterly with base officials, Restoration Division program managers and regulators to discuss cleanup issues. The RAB consists of 15 public representatives elected by communities on and surrounding the base.

"In addition to the RAB, the monthly *Report to Stakeholders* continues to keep our readers informed of any significant

progress," said Robert Wood, director of Environmental Management. "The newsletter is another effective communication vehicle that has a circulation of 6,000."

The public can expect RAB or newsletter updates on the progress of the cleanup systems proposed in the RODs. Duong and his team have a limited amount of time to take the ideas in each ROD and make them a reality.

State and federal regulators — including the California Environmental Protection Agency/Department of Toxic Substances Control, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency — monitor progress during the 15-month period. These regulators can assess fines and penalties if they decide there is a lack of significant progress during the allotted time.

After the cleanup remedy is in place and operational, another CERCLA deadline is set, the five-year review. This review is a mandatory follow-up measure conducted every five years after a ROD is signed. Federal law requires this review — as long as conditions do not allow for unlimited use — to ensure that the cleanup remedy in place is still protective of human health and the environment.

As part of the five-year review, base restoration officials determine if the cleanup remedies selected in the ROD are effective. They look for ways to improve the performance of the cleanup method (i.e., research if newer technologies are available) and make sure no contaminant standards have changed. The state and federal regulatory agencies establish regulatory limits called maximum contaminant levels that set the amount of a contaminant allowed in an environmental medium. These levels can change over time.

For instance, the OU4/9 South Air Force Research Laboratory Directorate ROD, signed in September 2007, will require a five-year review. Currently, there is no technology available for the efficient, cost-effective removal of contaminated groundwater from the fractured bedrock at the AFRL. The remedy in place involves containment and long-term monitoring. In less than five years, base officials will have to evaluate if a new technology is

“

Just because we signed the ROD does not mean we can walk away from the regulatory agencies and the public.

Robert Wood
Director
Environmental Management

”

available to deal with the contamination and make sure that the remedy in place is still protective of human health and the environment.

Another completed ROD, addresses contamination at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center in OU6. The cleanup remedy, signed in 2006, included chemical oxidation of contamination source locations, land use controls and groundwater monitoring. Chemical oxidation is a proven technique in which chemicals injected in the groundwater react with contamination to produce harmless byproducts.

Operable Unit 6 is the first area with cleanup actions expected to run more than five years. Duong and his team expect the first five-year review will be required in 2011.

The next few years will be a busy time for the ERP team, because 11 RODs and one five-year review are currently projected to be completed. While confident his team can deliver on that schedule, Duong said some of the ROD dates may be pushed back because of the review process.

“The dates in the FFA schedule can change, depending on the regulators’ needs,” Duong said. “Each document is lengthy and contains a lot of detail. The regulator review could take some time, particularly if the regulators have numerous comments and revisions. This could push back the release dates of some of the RODs.”

In the meantime, the cleanup team will maintain the fast-paced schedule and plan to keep the lines of communication open throughout the road to final cleanup.

“Some of the models for these cleanup systems predict it will take many years before all of the contamination is cleaned up,” Duong said. “Our regulators and the public will be hearing about our achievements every step of the way.”

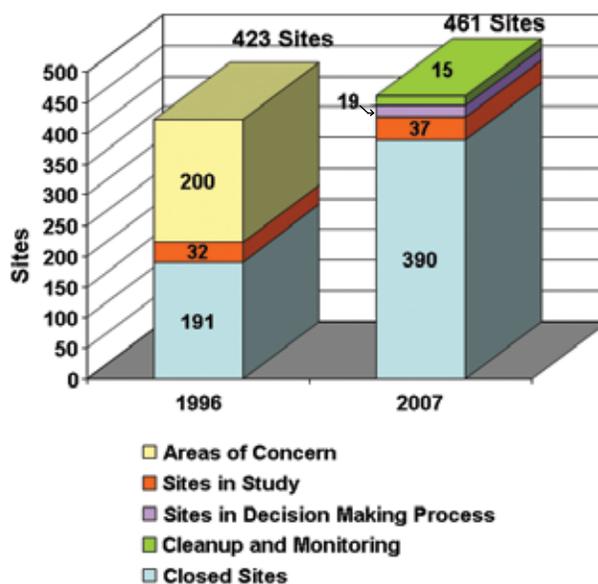
Looking back at restoration...

Program makes major progress in cleanup

In June 1996, the second issue of the *Report to Stakeholders* showed the status of the sites in the Environmental Restoration Program. Now, almost 12 years later, there has been a lot of progress.

Most significant is the amount of investigation work that has occurred. Since 1996, many suspected sites have been studied closely, found to contain little or no contamination and moved into the closed category. Some sites were cleaned up and closed by agreement with regulatory agencies. Environmental Restoration Program investigations also found 48 additional sites.

To date, \$335 million has been spent. The taxpayers’ final bill for cleaning up the base will be an estimated \$425 million, according to restoration experts.



Areas of Concern

Areas of the base where there was a potential for contamination, but as of 1996, testing had not yet been completed to verify the presence of contamination.

Sites in Study

Sites on the base where contamination has been found. These sites are being prepared for, or are undergoing remedial investigation or cleanup alternatives are being evaluated for the sites.

Sites in Decision-Making Process

Sites are in the Decision-making Process when Proposed Plans and Records of Decision are being prepared. A Proposed Plan is a document that describes the Air Force’s proposed methods of cleanup for a site or group of sites, the rationale for their selection, a summary of the Remedial Investigation results, and a summary of the alternatives considered for each site described in the Feasibility Study. A Record of Decision is a formal document that describes the selected remedies for a site or group of sites.

Cleanup and Monitoring

A site is in Cleanup when a Record of Decision has been signed and the final remedy is operating at the site. A site is in Monitoring when only groundwater monitoring is required to ensure a site does not pose a threat to human health or the environment or when all active remediation has been completed and monitoring is being performed to ensure the site continues to be protective of human health and the environment.

Closed Sites

Sites where the suspected contaminant area was carefully investigated and no contamination was found to warrant further testing or the contamination at the site was removed. These areas were effectively closed once environmental regulators were satisfied that there was no contamination present. The sites are not officially closed until documented in a Record of Decision.

RTS

Where to Find More INFORMATION



Published data and documents relating to Environmental Management are available for public review in information repositories at three locations. The current information repositories are located in the cities of Lancaster and Rosamond, as well as Edwards Air Force Base. They are updated when new documents are released.

For questions about information in the repositories, you may contact Gary Hatch, Environmental Public Affairs at (661) 277-1454 or by e-mail at 95abw.pae@edwards.af.mil. Here is a list of our current information repositories:

Edwards Air Force Base Library

5 W. Yeager Blvd.
Building 2665
Edwards AFB, Calif.
(661) 275-2665
Hours of operation: Mon-Thu 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Fri 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sat-Sun 10:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Kern County Public Library

Wanda Kirk Branch
3611 Rosamond Blvd.
Rosamond, Calif.
(661) 256-3236
Hours of operation: Tue-Wed 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Thu-Sat 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Los Angeles County Public Library

601 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 948-5029
Hours of operation: Mon-Wed 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Thu-Fri 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sat 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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5 E. Popson Ave., Bldg. 2650A
Edwards AFB, Calif., 93524-8060

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Information

The RAB is made up of elected representatives from communities in and around Edwards Air Force Base, regulators from federal and state agencies and base officials. The board's purpose is to provide a forum for two-way communication among base restoration officials, regulators and representatives regarding the cleanup of contamination from past military activities.

The board meets quarterly, rotating meeting locations in communities surrounding the base. The public is welcome to attend. If you have any questions or concerns about the cleanup activities going on at Edwards, you

may contact your community's RAB member or Gary Hatch, Environmental Public Affairs, at (661) 277-1454.

Next Quarterly Meeting

Date: Feb. 21, 2008
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Mojave, Calif.
Venue is to be determined.

RAB Members

OFF-BASE COMMUNITIES

Boron

Hugh Jamison (760) 762-6658 Home
hbj@ccis.com

California City

Bob Smith (760) 373-4317 Home
bsmith@ccis.com

Lancaster

Peter Zorba (661) 723-6234 Work
pzorba@cityoflancasterca.org
ALTERNATE: Mayor Henry Hearn
hhearns@cityoflancasterca.org

Mojave

Victor Yaw (661) 824-2886 Home
vicyaw@yahoo.com (661) 275-4296 Work

North Edwards

Ruby Messersmith (760) 769-4357 Home
messersmith2@verizon.net

Rosamond

David Newman (661) 722-6433 Work
newmanispwest@yahoo.com
ALTERNATE: Leslie Uhazy
(661) 256-8209 Home
luhazy@avc.edu (661) 722-6417 Work

ON-BASE COMMUNITIES

Housing

Michelle Tucker (661) 258-9030 Home
mztucker@usa.net

Main Base Air Base Wing

Carolyn Coe (661) 277-6678 Work
ccoe@triwest.com

Main Base Test Wing

Dean Baker (661) 277-5649 Work
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NASA Dryden

Gemma Fregoso (661) 276-2817 Work
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ALTERNATE: William Brandweiner
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North Base

Rachel Young (661) 277-7903 Work
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South Base

Brenda Weems-Hunter (661) 275-0456 Work
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AF Research Laboratory and Propulsion

Directorate
Milton McKay (661) 275-5191 Work
milton.mckay@us.af.mil

Remedial Project Managers

California Department of Toxic Substances

Control

John Harris (916) 255-3683 Work
JHarris3@dtsc.ca.gov

Jose Salcedo (916) 255-3741 Work
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Edwards Air Force Base

Ai Doung (661) 277-1474 Work
ai.doung@edwards.af.mil

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control

Board

Jehiel Cass (760) 241-2434 Work
jcass@waterboard.ca.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

James Ricks (415) 972-3023 Work
ricks.james@epa.gov

Joseph Healy (415) 972-3269 Work
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