

# ERP Fact Sheet

May 2008



## SAFETY FOR RESIDENTS AND WORKERS

**PARAMOUNT** - A blue decontamination tent sits in front of the large tent used during excavation at Site 426. The yellow ducting and attached equipment were to keep anything harmful released during excavation from contaminating the environment. The black unit on the left side was an air filter that cleaned all air leaving the tent.

## Careful Excavation of World War II Site Finds No Trace of Chemicals

**A**ir Force environmental engineers recommend no further action for Site 426. Site 426, World War II Chemical Warfare Materiel (CWM) Storage Yard, was located in the Northwest Main Base area of Edwards AFB, south of Popson Avenue and north of Rosamond Boulevard.

Based on information in base archival documents and an examination of aerial

photographs of the area taken in the 1940s and 1950s, the CWM Storage Yard (also referred to as the Toxic Gas Yard) was constructed in late 1942 and encompassed an area of approximately 1.6 acres.

The yard was apparently no longer in use in late 1946, and by the mid-1950s the area was overgrown with vegetation. The archival records indicate that various types

This Fact Sheet describes how all removal actions have been completed at Site 426, World War II Chemical Warfare Materiel Storage Yard, and why no further action is needed.

The Air Force has included the proposal for Site 426 in the *Operable Unit 7 Chemical Warfare Materiel Proposed Plan*. Printed copies of the Proposed Plan are available at the three information repositories listed on page 4. The document is also available to the public on the internet at <http://bsx.edwards.af.mil/environmental>. Choose the **Documents for Public Review** folder, select the **Operable Unit 7 Chemical Warfare Materiel Proposed Plan** Folder, and download **Proposed Plan** from the bottom of the page.

No evidence of chemical warfare materiel was found during excavation activities at Site 426.

of chemical warfare agents (CWA) and incendiaries may have been stored and/or disposed of at the CWM Storage Yard during the time it was in operation.

The Air Force conducted site investigations at Site 426 between 1998 and 2002. Several geophysical surveys were conducted to locate and map the extent of any possible locations that may have contained buried material potentially associated with the former CWM Storage Yard.

Four linear features were identified during the geophysical surveys that were thought to be burial trenches. Workers also drilled into the ground surrounding the linear features to collect soil gas and soil samples. Groundwater samples were collected from groundwater monitoring wells installed at the site.

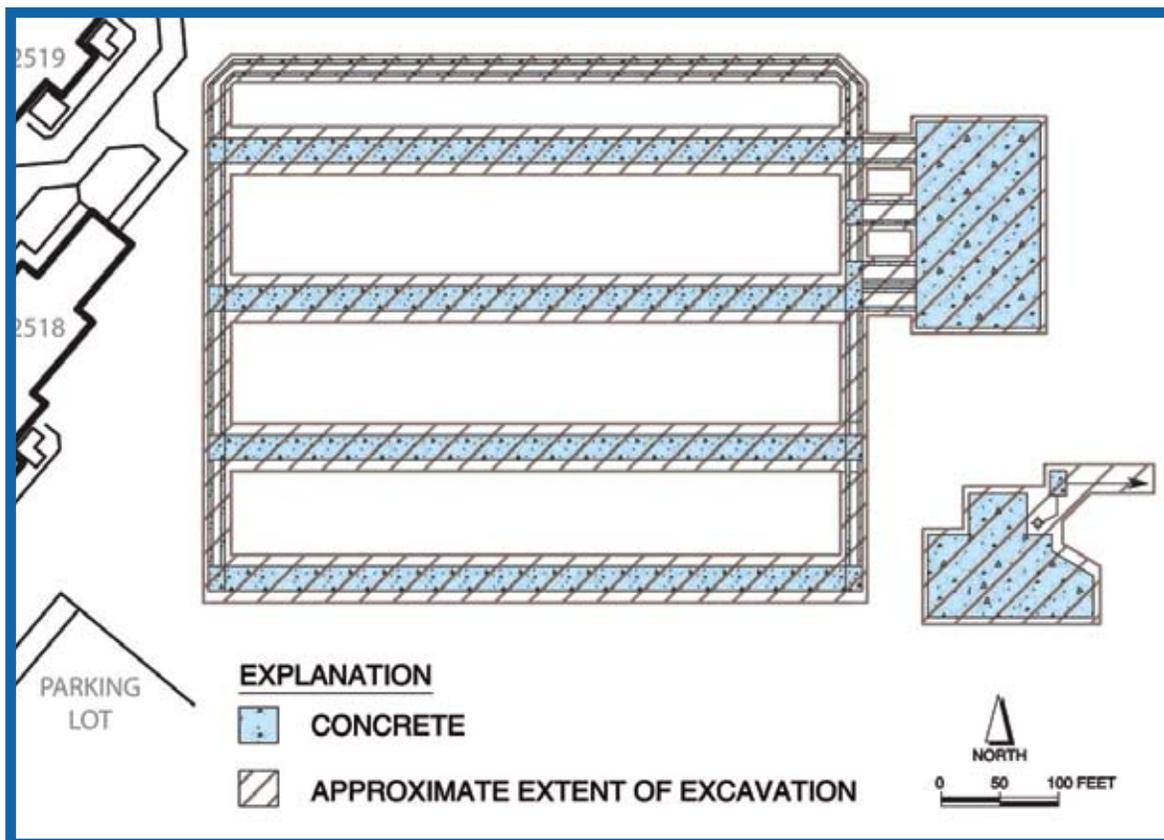
These samples were sent to off-Base laboratories to determine what chemicals were present. No CWM

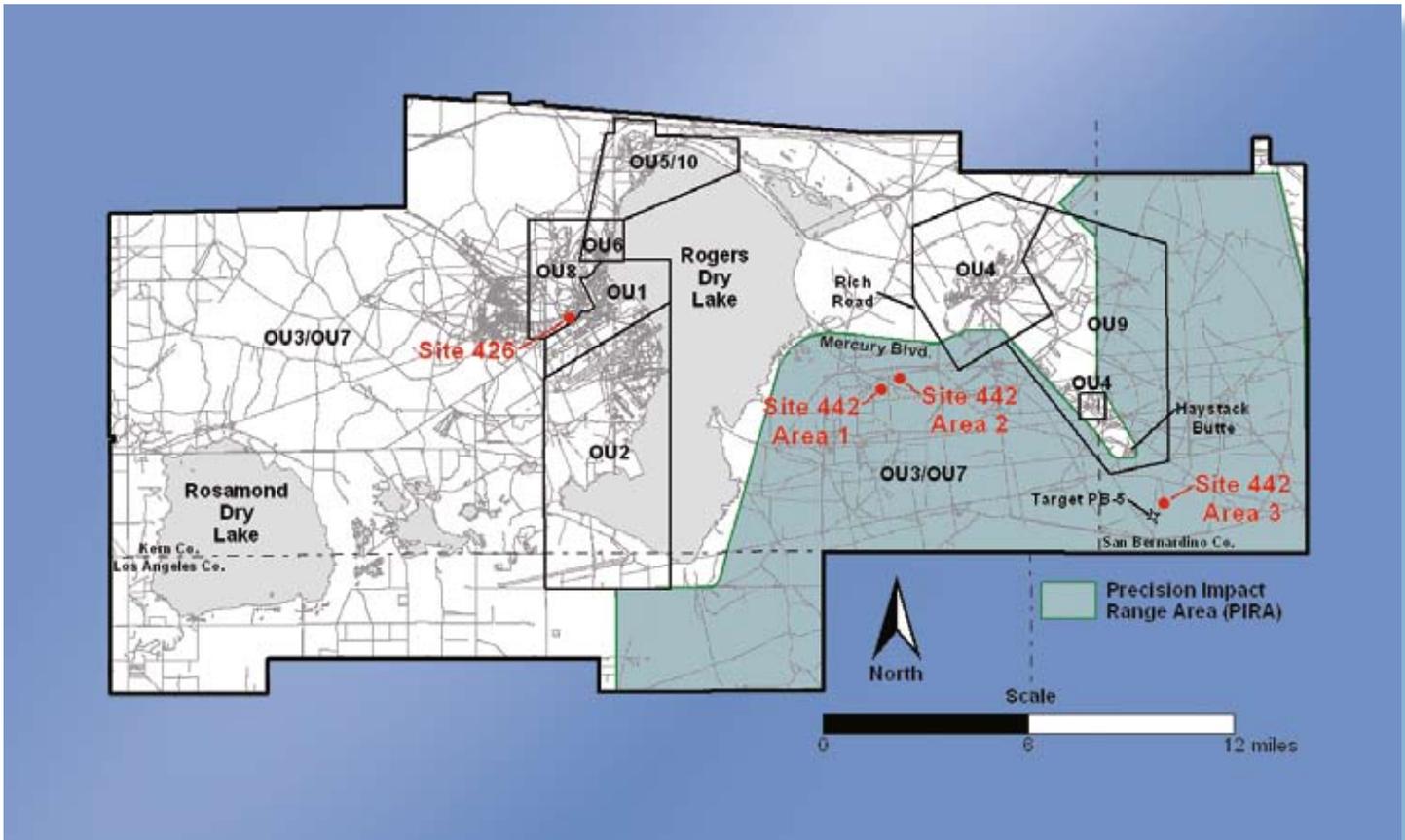
or CWM degradation products were detected in soil or groundwater samples collected at Site 426. No samples were collected within the boundaries of the potential burial areas because the Base was concerned that a release of CWA during sampling might contaminate the adjacent housing area.

In 2002, the Air Force performed an interim removal action at the site to excavate the linear features identified during the geophysical surveys. The excavations were performed under a large, movable tent-like structure equipped with an air exhaust/filtration system to contain the indoor air and remove any potentially hazardous vapors.

No evidence of CWM was found during the excavation activities. The four linear features that were possible burial locations containing CWM were found to be part of a buried network of concrete rails and foundations associated with the former CWM Storage Yard. These rails and

Limits of the excavation at Site 426.





Locations of chemical warfare materiel sites discussed in the Operable Unit 7 Chemical Warfare Materiel Proposed Plan.

foundations were removed during the excavation activities.

All concrete and soil was screened prior to transport to verify that it was not contaminated by CWM or other hazardous chemicals. Samples were collected at regular intervals and sent to off-Base laboratories to determine if chemicals of concern were present. No CWA or other hazardous chemicals were found.

Excavated soil was transported to the Precision Impact Range Area (PIRA) where it was dumped and graded on vacant land set aside for disposal. Concrete was taken to an area in South Base to be recycled at

a later date. The excavation at Site 426 was then backfilled with clean, imported soil and the site was graded and revegetated.

The Air Force, U.S. EPA, and State of California agree that No Further Action is required for the soil and groundwater at Site 426, and that the site should be approved for unrestricted use and unlimited exposure. The support for the decision of No Further Action for Site 426 is documented in the *Final Remedial Investigation Summary Report, Operable Unit No. 7, Chemical Warfare Materiel, Edwards AFB* (July 2006).

## More Information Available

The Air Force encourages the public to learn more about these sites, about restoration activities already completed and those proposed for the future. All documents that the base used to make decisions about these sites are in the base's administrative record. To view the full administrative record, contact Gary Hatch during regular business hours at:

**95 ABW/PAE**

**Attn: Gary Hatch**

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

**Phone: (661) 277-1454**

**Fax: (661) 277-6145**

**E-mail: [95abw.pae@edwards.af.mil](mailto:95abw.pae@edwards.af.mil)**

**Hours: By appointment only,  
Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

A subset of decision documents is available at the three Information Repository locations listed in the blue box above.

## To Make a Comment

Comments on the *Proposed Plan* may be made at the public meetings or by mail, e-mail, or fax. Send comments to Gary Hatch using the contact information above. A form is provided at the end of the *Proposed Plan*, but written comments are accepted in any form. Comments must be received no later than June 16, 2008.

## How to Get More Information

For more information on the Operable Unit 7 Chemical Warfare Materiel project, technical documents may be reviewed at the following Information Repositories.

Edwards AFB Library  
5 W. Yeager Blvd.  
Building 2665  
Edwards AFB, Calif.  
(661) 275-2665

Los Angeles County Public Library  
601 W. Lancaster Blvd.  
Lancaster, Calif.  
(661) 948-5029

Kern County Public Library  
Wanda Kirk Branch  
3611 Rosamond Blvd.  
Rosamond, Calif.  
(661) 256-3236

Please join us for a  
**Public Meeting/Public Availability Session**  
to discuss the

**Operable Unit 7  
Chemical Warfare Materiel  
Proposed Plan  
Sites 426 and 442**

**May 29, 2008 • 5:30 p.m.**

West Boron Elementary School  
12300 Del Oro Street  
Boron, California

For more information on the meeting, please contact Gary Hatch at (661) 277-1454 or e-mail [95abw.pae@edwards.af.mil](mailto:95abw.pae@edwards.af.mil).

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