



Vandenberg Air Force Base Installation Restoration Program Site 20 Erosion Mitigation Project Fact Sheet



Vandenberg Air Force Base, California

February 2002

Installation Restoration Program

INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet describes a proposed project for controlling erosion at Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Site 20 on Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB). This fact sheet also describes prevention of disturbance to a former landfill and drum disposal site. The IRP is an Air Force program to identify and cleanup contamination on military bases resulting from past activities.

SITE 20 BACKGROUND

Site 20 is located southeast of the Cantonment Area, Vandenberg AFB, California. The site includes a decommissioned landfill, an unexploded ordnance (UXO) area, and a former drum disposal site. The landfill was a primary disposal site at Vandenberg AFB between 1942 and 1957. Most of the waste disposed at the site was household refuse, but included some incinerator ash and slag, scrap metal, waste pesticides, and waste petroleum. At the drum disposal site, approximately fifty drums of petroleum wastes and solvents, as well as UXO, were reportedly buried.

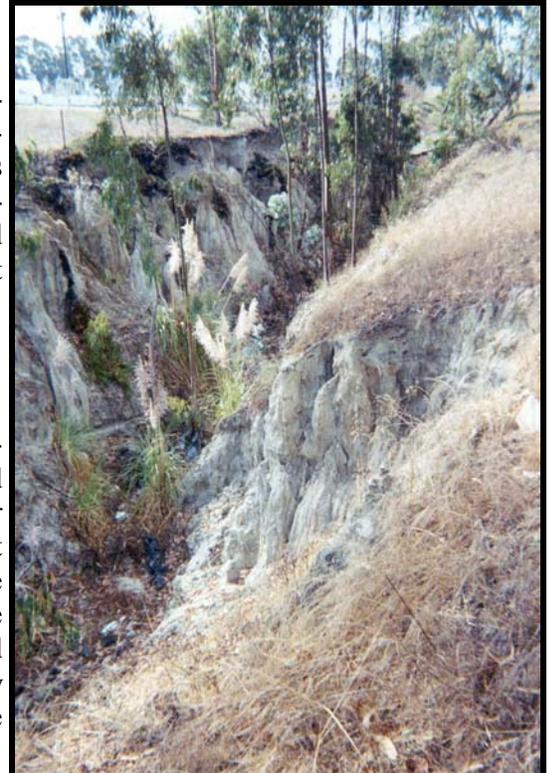
Currently, stormwater generated and collected west of Site 20 is channeled onto the site through culverts located near its southwestern and northwestern corners. Stormwater from culvert discharge points and local site run-off contribute to the erosion of fill material, soils, and bedrock in a primary ravine between the landfill and the drum disposal area. Additionally, stormwater from culvert discharge points and local site run-off appear to have cut a secondary ravine in the western portion of the landfill.

SITE 20 STATUS

Vandenberg AFB prepared an engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) for Site 20 as part of a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) non-time critical interim removal action (IRA). In the CERCLA administrative process, the purpose of an IRA is to reduce risks at a site prior to completion of the remedial investigation (RI). Evaluation of remedial alternatives for the IRA is based on technical feasibility, reasonable cost, time constraints, and human health and ecological impacts. In this case, the EE/CA was done to evaluate and compare technological alternatives for controlling stormwater and erosion that could cause hazardous substances to migrate or be released.

EROSION MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES

Eleven erosion mitigation alternatives for Site 20 were identified and screened. After the initial screening,



Erosion caused by stormwater runoff at Site 20.

the Air Force selected three alternatives for detailed evaluation. These alternatives were:

- Stormwater energy dissipater;
- Backfill primary ravine; and
- Geogrid slope stabilization.

Vandenberg AFB assessed the three erosion mitigation alternatives at this site and plans to implement the stormwater energy dissipater alternative. This alternative consists of constructing gabions (wire baskets containing gravel) in the primary ravine to slow stormwater flow and reduce erosion.

Where local run-off contributes to erosion, V-ditches will be cut parallel to the top edge of the primary ravine to divert run-off. To mitigate erosion in the secondary ravine, a corrugated metal pipe will be installed from Discharge Point 2 to an outlet structure in the primary ravine. After installation of the gabions, V-ditches, and metal pipe, critical areas of the site will be revegetated.

Vandenberg AFB will be drafting a construction project work plan and an engineering design. The Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board will need to approve the plan and design before construction of the stormwater energy dissipater alternative begins.

PUBLIC REVIEW

A 30-day public review and comment period has been set for 19 February through 19 March 2002, to receive public input on the draft EE/CA for this site. Also available for review and comment during this time will be the Draft Negative Declaration, a finding by DTSC that the proposed cleanup actions will not have a significant effect on the environment, according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The documents will be available at two information repositories: Lompoc Library, Public Documents Section, 501 East North Ave., Lompoc; and Vandenberg AFB Library, Public Documents Section, 100 Community Loop, Bldg. 10343, Vandenberg AFB. Comments on the EE/CA must be postmarked by March 19, 2002 and sent to Mr. Ron MacLelland, Community Relations Coordinator, 806 13th Street, Suite 116, Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437. Comments on the Negative Declaration should be postmarked by March 19, 2002 and sent to: Mr. Ning-Wu Chang, DTSC Project Manager, 5796 Corporate Ave., Cypress, CA 90630. E-mailed comments will also be accepted at nchang@dtsc.ca.gov.

If you have questions about this project or any aspect of the IRP program, please contact Mr. Ron MacLelland, Community Relations Coordinator, 806 13th Street, Suite 116, Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437-5242.

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