



Vandenberg Air Force Base Installation Restoration Program Clean Up at Sites 24 and 25



Vandenberg Air Force Base, California

July 2001

Installation Restoration Program

INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet describes the proposed environmental cleanup actions at two Installation Restoration Program (IRP) sites on Vandenberg Air Force Base. The IRP is an Air Force program to identify and cleanup contamination on military bases resulting from past activities. This fact sheet also describes how to review and comment on the proposed cleanup actions.



Site 24 Entomology Wash Rack shown on right after heavy rains.

SITE 24 BACKGROUND

Site 24 is located in the Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB) cantonment area near the intersection of Nebraska and Utah Avenues. Known as the "Entomology Wash Rack," IRP Site 24 was used for mixing pesticides and washing application equipment from 1965 until 1982. The IRP site is currently not used, but contains three storage buildings, a washrack, a covered concrete area containing an aboveground storage tank, and a concrete tank maintenance bay with an adjacent concrete sump.

Environmental investigations performed at the site under the IRP indicate elevated levels of trichloroethane in sludge samples from the sump, and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), trichloroethane, and perchloroethene at levels that present a risk to human health and the environment in surrounding soils. The Air Force has determined that the elevated TPH and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) detected, warrants an interim removal action (IRA) to address the sump removal and affected soil and protect human health and the environment. Soil impacted by the sump is estimated at less than 150 cubic yards.

SITE 25 BACKGROUND

Site 25 is located on Aero Road in the northern half of Vandenberg AFB. The IRP site is a former Thor-Agena missile launching facility that was active from 1958 to 1984. The site currently contains the former missile launch structure, a paint booth, a hazardous wastewater collection and storage area, aboveground fuel tanks, and a 250,000 gallon water storage tank (Facility 1627). The aboveground fuel tanks are not associated with the proposed removal action around the water storage tank.

Environmental investigations performed at the site under the IRP indicate elevated lead and hexavalent chromium (chromium 6) concentrations in near-surface soil samples collected from a sand-blast grit area identified near Facility 1627 at a water storage tank. Site investigation results indicate



IRP staff and state regulators perform inspection at Site 25.

that approximately 185 cubic yards of shallow soil surrounding the water storage tank pose a significant potential health risk hazard and justifies an IRA.

CLEANUP/REMOVAL ALTERNATIVES FOR SITES 24 AND 25

In coordination with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), a Removal Action Work Plan (RAW) was developed to address the TPH and VOC-contaminated soil at Site 24 and the metals-contaminated soil at Site 25. The RAW identified and screened the following removal alternatives for each site:

- No action;
- Excavation and disposal of sumps and affected soil; and
- Excavation and treatment of soils via bioremediation in a land treatment unit.

Based on a comparison of the cost effectiveness, feasibility of engineering and construction, and level of environmental protection, excavation and disposal of sumps and affected soil at Sites 24 and 25 was selected as the preferred alternative. The contaminated soil will be disposed of at a licensed, off-site facility, and later replaced with clean soil.

An engineering plan for executing the preferred removal action alternative is provided in the RAW. The engineering plan consists of procedures for excavation, waste characterization and disposal, confirmation soil sampling and analysis, and site restoration. The RAW also describes procedures for public involvement in the removal action activities.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A 30-day public review and comment period has been set for July 3 through August 2, 2001, to receive public input on the draft RAW for each 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, in accordance with 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 RAWs must be postmarked by August 2nd 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 August 2nd 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 site or any aspect of the IRP, please contact Mr. Ron MacLelland, Community Relations Coordinator, 806 13th Street, Suite 116, Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437-5242.

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