



Vandenberg Air Force Base Installation Restoration Program Implementing Land Use Controls at Sites 18 & 22



Vandenberg Air Force Base, California

August 2002

Installation Restoration Program



INTRODUCTION

Panoramic view of Site 18.

This fact sheet describes the proposed actions for two Installation Restoration Program (IRP) sites on Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB). The IRP is an Air Force program to identify and address contamination on military bases resulting from past activities. This fact sheet also describes how to review and comment on the proposed actions. Oral comments to the proposed plan will be received at a public meeting scheduled September 12, 2002 at the Allan Hancock College campus in Lompoc, CA.

SITE 18 BACKGROUND

Site 18, Landfill 3 and 4, is located in the southern half of Vandenberg AFB, California. The site is immediately east of Manzanita Road and approximately 3,000 feet south of Mesa Road and covers approximately 2 acres. Disposal at Site 18 began in the mid to late 1960s. The site received primarily construction debris. Site 18 is currently unused and land use is open space.

Under the IRP, surface and subsurface soil samples, and groundwater samples were collected adjacent to the landfill boundaries. Drilling within the landfill boundaries was not conducted because of the potential presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO). No significant contamination was detected in soil or groundwater collected adjacent to the landfill. A soil gas survey was also conducted at Site 18 and no landfill gas or volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected. Site 18 poses no immediate risks to human health and the environment; however, because no deep soil or groundwater samples were collected within the boundaries of the landfill, the potential exists for unknown substances to pose a risk should the land use change in the future.

SITE 22 BACKGROUND

Site 22, Landfill 11 and 11A, is located on the southern portion of Burton Mesa at Vandenberg AFB. The site covers approximately 5 acres southeast of the intersections of 35th Street, New Mexico Avenue, and Terra Road. Wastes disposed of at the site consisted primarily of construction debris, though small quantities of waste oils and solvents were also reportedly disposed of.

Under the IRP, soil and groundwater samples were collected and a soil gas survey was conducted. Drilling within the landfill boundaries was not conducted because of the potential presence of UXO. Two soil samples were collected from one boring drilled outside the landfill boundary. Low concentrations of VOCs were detected in soil. No significant contamination was detected in groundwater collected from two monitoring wells adjacent to the landfill. Methane was detected in soil gas at a concentration well below the acceptable emission standard. Site 22 does not appear to pose immediate risks to human health and the environment; however, because no deep soil or groundwater samples were collected within the boundaries of the landfill, the potential exists for unknown substances to pose a risk should the land use change in the future.

ALTERNATIVES AND SELECTED REMEDIES

In coordination with the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), a Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) was prepared to evaluate actions that would minimize the future potential risks to human health and the environment. Based on the findings of the FFS, a draft Record of Decision (ROD)/Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was prepared to present the proposed remedies for Sites 18/22 and develop an implementation and maintenance plan. The FFS identified the following alternatives 1) no action and 2) land use controls. Vandenberg AFB has assessed the alternatives for Sites 18/22 and recommends land use controls. This alternative is the most protective of human health and the environment. The land use controls will consist of installation and maintenance of signs to keep people off the property and define the boundaries at Sites 18/22. Further, the base Geographic Information System will be amended to record that the land use at Sites 18/22 is restricted to current use unless written approval is obtained from the base environmental office, DTSC, and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC MEETING

A 30-day public review and comment period has been set for September 3, 2002 through October 2, 2002, to receive public input on the draft ROD/RAP for each site, along with the FFS. Also available for review and comment during this time will be the Draft Notice of Exemption, a finding by DTSC that the proposed actions will not have a significant affect on the environment, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The draft ROD/RAP 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 ROD/RAP must be postmarked by October 2, 2002 and sent to Ron MacLelland, Community Relations Coordinator, 806 13th Street, Suite 116, Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437. Comments on the Notice of Exemption should be post-marked or emailed by October 2, 2002 and sent to: Dr. Ning-Wu Chang, DTSC Project Manager, 5796 Corporate Ave., Cypress, CA 90630, nchang@dtsc.ca.gov.

Additionally, a public meeting will be held on September 12, 2002 at the Allan Hancock College, Lompoc Campus, Building 1 at 10:00 a.m. A briefing on the proposed plan will be presented, and a formal oral comment period will be available for those who would like to voice their concerns. Immediately following the public comment period, will be the Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting. The CAB acts in an advisory role in order to provide recommendations to the IRP cleanup process, the DTSC, and the RWQCB. Membership of the CAB consists of approximately 25 individuals who reflect the diverse interests of the local community. For directions to the public meeting location, please contact Mr. Ron MacLelland, 30 CES/CEVR, at (805) 606-2071.

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