



Air Force Installation & Mission Support Center



Fact Sheet

Former Chanute AFB PFAS Remedial Investigation Begins

What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of synthetic fluorinated chemicals, including perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), that were used in industrial and consumer products such as nonstick cookware, stain-resistant fabric and carpet, waterproof fabric, some food packaging, and Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) firefighting agent. In 1970, the Air Force began using AFFF for extinguishing petroleum fires to save people and property. At Chanute AFB, AFFF was used and stored until the base closed in 1993.

There is significant attention on PFAS releases from DoD activities and the subsequent potential impact to human health and the environment. The presence of PFAS in the environment is a national issue due to its wide-spread use in many industrial and consumer products. The Department of the Air Force (DAF) recognizes the importance of this issue and is committed to addressing PFAS in a deliberative, holistic, and transparent manner.

DAF Response to PFAS

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) is conducting environmental response actions on behalf of DAF at former Chanute AFB. AFCEC is coordinating with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to ensure appropriate measures are being taken to address PFAS at the former base. Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process, AFCEC conducted a Preliminary Assessment in 2016 and completed a Site Inspection in 2018. The Site Inspection concluded that PFAS are present in soil, groundwater, stormwater, surface water, and sediment at several AFFF release areas. Based on these results, AFCEC determined that a Remedial Investigation (RI) was warranted. Additionally, a non-drinking water response was taken at Landfill 2, where PFAS were detected in landfill leachate. AFCEC installed a granular activated carbon system to treat landfill leachate prior to discharge to the Village of Rantoul publicly owned treatment system. Currently, the AFCEC is conducting the RI and fieldwork will be executed over several mobilizations starting late April 2024 and ending in 2025. The RI process aims to identify the nature and extent of PFAS contamination and assess its risk to human health and the environment.

Remedial Investigation Timeline

Activity	Planned Start Date	Planned Completion Date
Mobilization 1 Sampling	Spring 2024	Summer 2024
Mobilization 2 Sampling	Late Summer 2024	Fall 2024
Mobilization 3 Sampling	Spring 2025	Summer 2025
Final Groundwater Sampling	Fall 2025	Fall 2025
RI Report	Winter 2025	Summer 2026

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What to expect

AFCEC will be installing groundwater monitoring wells, drilling soil borings, and collecting samples for PFAS analysis. The approach will focus on sampling surface and subsurface soil and groundwater; and sampling sanitary

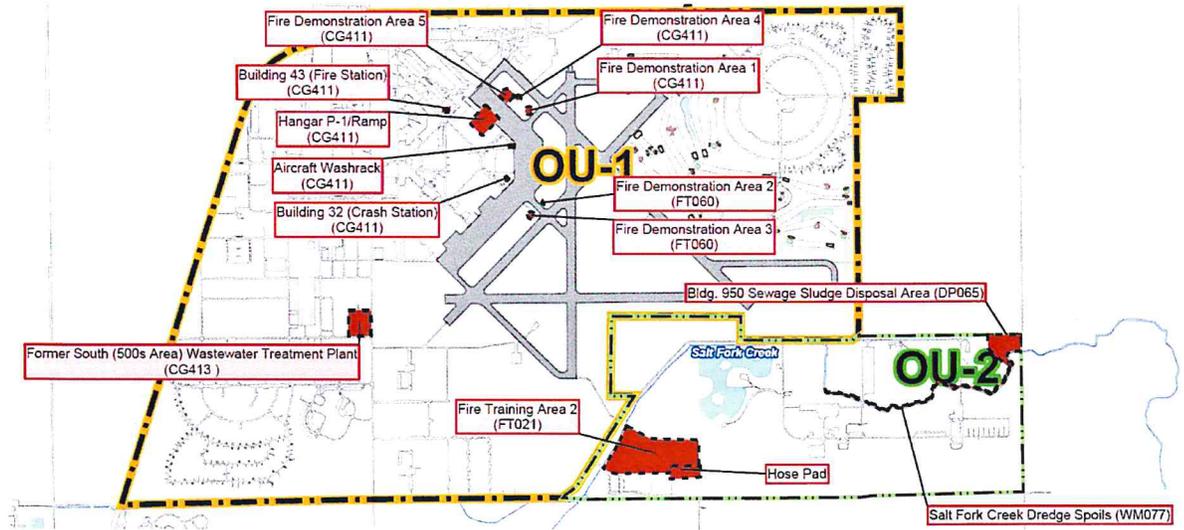


Figure 1: AFFF Areas

sewers and stormwater including outfalls to Salt Fork Creek. Surface water and sediment sampling within Salt Fork Creek will take place on-base and upstream and downstream of the base. The information collected will be used to complete the RI and determine the need for any additional remedial activities.

What will I see?

While these activities are ongoing you will see our crews and equipment in the AFFF release areas identified in Figure 1, as well as Salt Fork Creek. The crews will be operating equipment similar to Figure 2 while installing monitoring wells and Figure 3 while completing soil borings. Typical groundwater sampling setup is shown in Figure 4. We ask that you give them plenty of room to operate. The safety of the community, ecosystems, and work crews is our highest priority.



Figure 2: Sonic Drill Rig



Figure 3: Direct Push Technology Drill Rig



Figure 4: Monitoring Well Sampling