

Environmental Restoration Program BOMARC Proposed Plan

February 2018



For More Information:

Attend the Public Meeting on:

Thursday, Feb. 22
6:00 p.m.
Edward Holloway
Senior Citizen and
Community Center
Main Street
Cookstown, NJ

Or Contact:

Mr. Curtis Frye, Chief
Environmental Restoration
Program
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OVERVIEW

The Air Force at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL) has released a Proposed Plan for an area known as the Boeing Michigan Aeronautical Research Center (BOMARC). The Proposed Plan summarizes for the public environmental investigations conducted at BOMARC and identifies clean up alternatives. Public comment is welcome during the comment period extending from February 18, 2018 to March 19, 2018 and at a public meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2018, at 6:00 pm (see sidebar for details).

LOCATION, HISTORY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

The BOMARC facility is within the Dix area but considered part of McGuire. Three sites located within and adjacent to the facility have undergone comprehensive environmental investigation—Site OT016 (a trichloroethene or TCE groundwater plume), Site WP005 (BOMARC Missile Site JP-X Discharge Pit), and ST015 (BOMARC Missile Site Motor Oil/Gasoline Underground Storage Tank).

The BOMARC facility was opened in the late 1950s to provide intermediate to long-range surface to air interception capability along the East Coast of the United States. The facility housed rockets capable of delivering a nuclear warhead. The facility ceased use in 1972.

Environmental investigations found groundwater containing elevated levels of trichloroethene (TCE) at Sites OT016 and WP005. TCE was widely used by industry as a degreasing agent during the time the facility operated. The area of groundwater containing the TCE is in the shallow aquifer which extends to 74 feet below ground surface.

Contaminated soil from site activities was found at Site WP005. In 2012, a removal action was conducted to excavate 502 cubic yards of soil containing elevated concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) at WP005. Sampling of the soil after the excavation found no exceedances of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) standards for unrestricted use when using compliance averaging.

At ST015, a 5,000-gallon underground storage tank containing motor oil/gasoline was removed in 1993, in addition to 100 cubic yards of soil. An additional removal of 21 cubic yards of soil where PAHs were detected was also completed. Sampling of the soil after the excavation found no exceedances of NJDEP standards for unrestricted use. No further action is being proposed for ST015 as groundwater and soil meet the standards for protection of human health and the environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP REGULATION

In 1980, Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (also called CERCLA) to respond to environmental conditions that may pose a threat to human health, welfare and the environment. The Act is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and established a process for evaluating and restoring contaminated sites as shown below. Some sites at JB MDL are non-National Priority List (NPL) Sites, such as BOMARC, and NJDEP is the lead regulatory agency. The non-NPL Sites follow the CERCLA process; BOMARC is at the Proposed Plan stage. A final decision on the cleanup plan for BOMARC requires concurrence by the NJDEP.

Preliminary
AssessmentSite
InspectionRemedial
InvestigationFeasibility
StudyProposed
PlanRecord of
DecisionRemedial
DesignRemedial
ActionLong Term
Management



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

JB MDL maintains an Information Repository at:

Westampton Branch,
Burlington Co Library
5 Pioneer Boulevard
Westampton, NJ 08060

The full Administrative Record can be found online at:

<http://afcec.public-admin-record.us.af.mil/>

The Proposed Plan and other information about the JB MDL Environmental Restoration Program can be found online at:

www.envirorestorejbmndl.com

COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS COMPLETED

Environmental investigations conducted at BOMARC included installing groundwater monitoring wells and sampling the groundwater, surface water, sediment, and soil. All the field efforts and resulting data were used to produce a Remedial Investigation Report, along with assessments of potential risk and hazards to human health and the ecology.

For risks and hazards to be present, all the following must be present: a receptor (human or ecological), a contaminant, and a complete exposure pathway or a way for the contaminant to reach the receptor (ingestion, dermal contact, or inhalation). Contaminants in groundwater at the site exceed health-based and non-degradation standards; however, there are no complete exposure pathways. A public health assessment conducted by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry in 2002 concluded there were no public health hazards associated with the impacted groundwater at the site. The groundwater at the site is not currently used as a drinking water source. The assessment also concluded there are no apparent public health hazards to off-site recreational users of the Elisha Branch, Success Branch, or Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area due to past or current exposures to contaminants in surface water and sediment. Because impacted groundwater remains on Air Force property and the Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area, current and future development will remain restricted, eliminating any direct exposure pathways to future receptors. The ecological assessment stated cleanup activities should seek to minimize additional TCE moving into surface water, but direct remediation within Success Branch should be avoided due to the potential increased impacts to receptors during remediation.

FEASIBILITY STUDY ANALYZES FOUR POTENTIAL REMEDIES

As shown in the graphic on page one, the next step in the process was to develop a Feasibility Study to look at cleanup solutions for Sites OT016 and WP005. The Feasibility Study fully developed four potential remedies to reduce contaminants below non-degradation standards:

Alternative 1: No Further Action. Cost: \$0

Alternative 2: Air Sparge Barrier and Natural Attenuation, Monitored Natural Attenuation, and Land Use Controls. Cost: \$6.7 million

Alternative 3: Same as Alternative 2, with addition of a secondary air sparge treatment line. Cost: \$7.3 million

Alternative 4: Natural Attenuation, Reactive Barrier, Monitored Natural Attenuation, and Land Use Controls. Cost: \$25.8 million

Each of the alternatives is evaluated against nine criteria established for CERCLA sites: overall effectiveness, compliance with Federal and state regulations and requirements, long-term effectiveness and permanence, reduction of toxicity/mobility/volume of contaminants through treatment, short-term effectiveness, implementability, and cost. Two criteria evaluated after the public comment period are State acceptance and community acceptance.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The Preferred Alternative is Alternative 3. Alternative 3 would actively remediate and monitor groundwater and monitor surface water until preliminary remedial goals are met. The air sparge treatment lines would treat compounds migrating toward Success Branch prior to discharge. The installation of two air sparge treatment lines would result in rapid decline of TCE in groundwater immediately downgradient of the treatment lines. The combined effect of two treatment lines is the diffuse groundwater plume and surface water impacts would be attenuated in approximately 10 years. Land use controls would prevent access to and use of the groundwater until standards are met and control exposure to TCE concentrations in surface water. It is expected that treatment would need to operate for up to 100 years.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The public is encouraged to review the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and Proposed Plan and provide comments at the public meeting or in writing during the public comment period extending from February 18, 2018 to March 19, 2018. Comments can be emailed, faxed, or mailed to Mr. Curtis Frye (see sidebar on page 1). Mailed comments must be postmarked by March 19, 2018. The Air Force will keep the community informed of the final selected remedy through a newspaper notice and presentations at Restoration Advisory Meetings. Information about Restoration Advisory Board meetings can be found on the web site at www.envirorestorejbmndl.com.