

Environmental Restoration Program McGuire Operable Unit 4 Proposed Plan

February 2021



For More Information

Attend the Virtual
Public Meeting on:
Thursday, February 18
6:30 p.m.
(contact [kharris@
bridgeconsultingcorp.com](mailto:kharris@bridgeconsultingcorp.com)
for information on how
to join the meeting by
computer or by phone)

Or Contact:

Mr. James Richman
Remediation Program
Manager
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JBMDL, NJ 08641
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OVERVIEW

The Air Force at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL) has released a Proposed Plan for environmental action at McGuire Site ST009, also known as Operable Unit 4. The Proposed Plan summarizes for the public the environmental investigations conducted at this site and identifies clean up alternatives. Public comment is welcome during the comment period extending from February 16, 2021 to March 18, 2021 and at a public meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 6:30 pm (see sidebar for details).

LOCATION, HISTORY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

ST009 is located at McGuire, south of a tributary of South Run. The site is approximately 19 acres and has operated since 1963. The facility consisted of eight bulk fuel storage containers of 500,000 to 850,000-gallon capacities. Three of the containers, located at the western end of ST009, contained heating oil used in former Building 2101 and were removed in 2013. Also in 2013, former Building 2101 was demolished. JP-8 jet fuel is currently stored in the bulk fuel storage containers. In the past, aviation gasoline and JP-4 were stored in the bulk fuel storage containers.

Comprehensive environmental investigations found the primary source of contamination at ST009 is from several documented and suspected releases of jet fuel. Current operations that include regular monitoring, inspections and testing are not contributing to the existing contamination in the groundwater. Light non-aqueous phase liquid (LNAPL) is present at the groundwater surface and is trapped in low permeability sediment thereby acting as a source of contamination to the groundwater.

The potential for vapor intrusion at ST009 was evaluated, and based on the direction and spatial delineation of the contaminant plume, vapor intrusion is not a concern at the site. If buildings were constructed over the plume in the future, re-evaluation would be needed.

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. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection have reviewed and concurred with the Proposed Plan. The Air Force, in coordination with the regulatory agencies, will select a final remedy after public comments are reviewed.

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:

[https://ar.afcec-
cloud.af.mil/](https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil/)

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

www.envirostorejbmdl.com

FEASIBILITY STUDY ANALYZED FOUR POTENTIAL REMEDIES

The Proposed Plan was developed based on an analysis of remedial alternatives conducted in the Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study fully developed four potential remedies:

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

Alternative 2: Natural Source Zone Depletion (NSZD), Long-Term Monitoring, and Land Use Controls. NSZD is a combination of naturally occurring processes that reduce the LNAPL. Monitoring would be conducted to ensure the contamination is not migrating beyond the site and is degrading. Signage and administrative controls would also potentially be put in place. Cost: \$753,000

Alternative 3: NSZD, LNAPL Skimming with Mass Removal Optimization, Long-Term Monitoring, and Land Use Controls. In addition to actions described in Alternative 2, this alternative would be enhanced by active remediation technique where feasible such as product skimming, thermal enhanced remediation, and bioventing. Cost: \$1,100,000

Alternative 4: Excavation of Free Phase LNAPL with NSZD, Long-Term Monitoring, and Land Use Controls. LNAPL-impacted soils within the accessible areas of ST009 would be excavated, and a soil retention system would be installed. Although there are no unacceptable risks or hazards in soil, the excavation would eliminate the LNAPL in soils contributing to contamination migrating into the groundwater. Cost: \$11,600,000

Each of the alternatives are 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, NSZD, LNAPL Skimming with Mass Removal Optimization, Long-Term Monitoring, and Land Use Controls.** Alternative 3 utilizes NSZD and active treatment which is preferred and provides protection of human health and the environment until remedial objectives are achieved. Remedial objectives would be achieved significantly sooner than under Alternatives 2 and 4. Sampling of monitoring wells would be conducted to monitor the performance of the remedy and as compliance points to confirm that groundwater is not migrating off-site. As required by CERCLA, five-year reviews would be conducted at ST009 following the Record of Decision and would continue until cleanup levels are achieved, allowing for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The public is encouraged to review the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and Proposed Plan and provide oral comments at the public meeting or in writing during the public comment period extending from February 16, 2021 to March 18, 2021. Comments can be emailed, faxed, or mailed to Mr. James Richman (see sidebar on page 1). Mailed comments must be postmarked by March 18, 2021. The Air Force and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will jointly select the final remedy in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The Air Force will keep the community informed of the final selected remedy through a newspaper notice and presentations at Restoration Advisory Board meetings. Information about Restoration Advisory Board meetings can be found on the web site at www.envirostorejbmdl.com.