



Vandenberg Air Force Base Installation Restoration Program Proposed Plan Fact Sheet for Sites 16, 47, & 54



Vandenberg Air Force Base, California

June 2007

Installation Restoration Program

PUBLIC COMMENT INVITED

The public is invited to review and comment on a Draft Proposed Plan/Draft Remedial Action Plan (Draft PP/Draft RAP) for Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Sites 16, 47, and 54 on Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB). The IRP is the Air Force program that identifies and cleans up contamination resulting from activities on military bases prior to 1984. The public comment period runs from 1 June 2007 through 2 July 2007. Also available for review and comment during this time will be the Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC's) Draft Notice of Exemption (NOE), a finding under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that the proposed actions will not have a significant affect on the environment. The draft PP/RAP documents will be available at the information repositories listed at the end of this fact sheet.

SITE 16 BACKGROUND

Site 16 covers approximately 51 acres and includes MOD III Lake and vegetated sand dunes surrounding the lake. Before becoming a part of VAFB, Marshallia Ranch used this site for agricultural purposes such as cattle ranching. Since the 1960s, military personnel occasionally used MOD III Lake for recreation such as fishing and picnicking. VAFB identified Site 16 as an IRP site in the 1980s because it supposedly received launch wastewater from nearby IRP Sites 15 and 34. Subsequently, VAFB banned fishing at the lake. VAFB proceeded with a remedial investigation (RI) that included reviewing historical records, photographic analysis, and sediment, soil, surface water, and groundwater sampling. RI findings demonstrated that existing contaminants such as metals and petroleum hydrocarbons are naturally occurring and do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment.



Site 16, MOD III Lake.

Also, we determined that surface drainage from Sites 15 and 34 did not lead to MOD III Lake as previously reported. Therefore, MOD III Lake did not receive launch wastewater: thus, it is not an IRP site. The Site 16 RI Report recommended no further investigation. By letter dated 28 January 2000, both the DTSC and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) concurred with our recommendation for no further investigation at Site 16.

Current conditions allow for unrestricted and unlimited land use and MOD III Lake is still conducive to fishing and picnicking.



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SITE 47 BACKGROUND

Site 47, Lockheed Wash Pad, is located on the northern corner of New Mexico Avenue and 10th Street in the main cantonment area of VAFB. It consists of an approximately 40 by 60 foot, concrete pad formerly used to wash motor vehicles. Wash water originally drained through a storm drain line that ran into a culvert and discharged from an outfall area on the southeast side of New Mexico Avenue. Currently no operations are conducted at the wash pad, and storm-water is now directed into a base storm drain system that parallels New Mexico Avenue at VAFB. VAFB performed a RI that included a records search, personal interviews, geologic surveys, soil gas, soil, and sediment sampling, environmental data analyses, and data validation. Environmental sampling of sediment from the wash drains indicated elevated concentrations of arsenic and lead. Therefore, this sediment was removed and the wash pad drain system was sealed in November 1995. Since the sediment was removed, we concluded in the Site 47 RI Report that existing conditions do not pose a threat to human health or the environment under current and reasonably anticipated future site conditions, and therefore, we recommended no further investigation. By letter dated 2 May 1997, the DTSC and the RWQCB concurred our recommendation for no further investigation at the site.



Site 47, Former Wash Pad.

SITE 54 BACKGROUND

Site 54 (Missile Silo Complex 395-A) is located approximately 1.6 miles north of San Antonio Creek near El Rancho Road on north VAFB. It consists of three abandoned Titan I missile silos surrounded by a concrete pad connected to the other former work area pads by a concrete roadway. The doors to the silo's access tunnels are welded shut. A network of concrete-lined and unlined channels were used to direct deluge water from launches southward and across IRP Site 27, which is next to Site 54. Site 54 was used as a training facility from September 1961 to March 1965. Nineteen Titan I missiles were launched from Missile Silo 395-A. The Titan I missiles were fueled with a mixture of rocket propellant No. 1 and liquid oxygen, and flushed with trichloroethene prior to launch. Currently no Air Force operations are conducted at the site.



Site 54, Former Missile Silo Complex 395-A.

Environmental investigation activities conducted regarding Site 54 included the following: a records search; personal interviews; geologic surveys; geophysical survey; soil gas, soil, sediment, and groundwater sampling; environmental data analyses; and data validation. Based on our review of data collected during the RI, it was apparent to us the elevated metal concentrations detected in the fill material at the site were



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not related to site activity, but were derived from elevated metal concentrations associated with natural fragments of the Monterey Shale and Sisquoc Formations observed within the fill materials at Site 54. No petroleum hydrocarbons were detected in the soil samples collected to investigate for potential leaks associated with the rocket propellant underground storage tank.

The only volatile organic compounds detected in soil samples were low levels of acetone and methylene chloride, which are common laboratory contaminants and are suspected laboratory artifacts. Furthermore, there are no known sources of these compounds at Site 54.

During site visits, investigators attempted to access the silo. The access doors to silo tunnels were welded shut, and we deemed drilling through the 4-foot-thick concrete doors covering the silo top impractical. We determined there was no practical and safe means of collecting samples in the silo. Therefore, although the potential for silo water has not been assessed due to access restrictions and safety issues, we consider its likelihood of potentially impacting groundwater remote.

Therefore, the RI findings, as reflected in the Site 54 RI Report, demonstrated that existing contaminants do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment. Thus, we recommended no further investigation. By letter dated 23 April 2001, both the DTSC and the RWQCB concurred with our recommendation for no further investigation at Site 54.

SITES 16, 47, & 54: PROPOSED REMEDY

Based on the RI results, Site 16, 47, and 54 conditions do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment. The RI documents for Sites 16, 47, and 54 can be found in the Administrative Record for the VAFB IRP. The proposed No Further Action remedy for each site is consistent with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA). The DTSC and the RWQCB concur with the recommendation for no further investigation at each of the sites. DTSC plans to issue a NOE.

HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

Written comments on the Proposed Plans for Sites 16, 42, and 54 must be postmarked or emailed by 2 July 2007 and sent to:

Mr. Ronald MacLelland
Community Relations Coordinator
1515 Iceland Avenue, Room 181C
Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437-5319
Email: ronald.maclelland@vandenberg.af.mil

Ms. Manjulika Chakrabarti
DTSC Project Manager
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90607-4632
Email: mchakrab@dtsc.ca.gov

Comments may also be provided during a public hearing that will be held on 10:00 a.m. on 14 June 2007. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Community Advisory Board meeting. The meeting location will be:

Community Meeting Room 1-202/203
Allan Hancock College, Lompoc Valley Center
One Hancock Drive, Lompoc, CA, tel: (805) 735-3366



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The Draft PP/Draft RAP for Sites 16, 47, and 54, as well as other documents related to the environmental cleanup at VAFB, are available at these locations:

Lompoc Public Library
501 East North Avenue
Lompoc, CA
Call (805) 736-3477 for current hours

Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA
Hours: M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact Carol Kolb (805) 542-4625
email: ckolb@waterboards.ca.gov
Alternative contact: Linda Stone (805) 542-4695

Vandenberg AFB Library
100 Community Loop, Bldg. 10343a
Vandenberg, AFB CA
Hours: M-Th, 12-9 p.m.; F-Sun 12-6 p.m.

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA
Hours: M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Call (714) 484-5336 for appointment

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information please call Ronald MacLelland at (805) 606-2071.