

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

RCRA Showcase Pilot - Region 6 Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas

This is an EPA Region 6 Federal Facilities pilot project.

Facility Name - Randolph Air Force Base
San Antonio, Texas

Randolph Air Force Base (AFB) is a Department of Defense (DoD) aeronautical training facility located on 2,893 acres approximately 14 miles northeast of San Antonio, Texas. Randolph AFB was initially established in 1930 as a school for aviation medicine and a pilot and combat crew training facility. By the late 1950s, the Base hosted the Headquarters Air Training Command and the USAF Helicopter School. Randolph AFB houses several headquarters including Air Education & Training Command, Air Force Personnel Center, Air Force Headquarters Recruiting Services, and the Nineteenth Air Force (19AF). Randolph is one of the few bases in the Air Force that continues to provide instructor pilot training. Randolph AFB is not currently RCRA-regulated and is proceeding toward closure under the Texas Voluntary Cleanup Program.

Pilot Project Participants - Randolph AFB personnel, AFCEE personnel, TNRCC staff, Region 6 RCRA Corrective Action staff.

Oversight of the Randolph Pilot - Oversight of this pilot will be carried out by TNRCC. The Region 6 team members will participate in meetings and serve as technical advisors.

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Innovations of the Pilot Program - EPA Region 6, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC), Randolph AFB, and the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence have teamed together to expedite the completion of RCRA corrective action activities at 23 Installation Restoration Program (IRP) sites. To date, EPA has assisted Randolph with the completion of NFRAP documents necessary for closure of several IRP sites and furthered the funding issue for Landfill 001. EPA, in coordination with the TNRCC, hope to consolidate investigatory efforts for Fire Training Area 4 and 5 by involvement in the up-front planning of activities. EPA, the State, and Randolph meet to discuss comments and regulatory concerns prior to preparation of reports. EPA and State are reviewing reports while they are under preparation and providing direct input to the base for needed data points.

Stakeholder Support - Stakeholder support for the pilot comes primarily through the direct involvement with the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). Stakeholders (on-base, off-base, and regulatory parties) involvement allows for informed decision making which results in heightened trust and credibility in the community, the avoidance of unexpected community concerns late in the cleanup process and decreased cleanup program productivity and cost savings. The stakeholders involvement includes formal RAB meetings, as well as informal information sharing channels.

Benefits of the Pilot - All participants are working in a cooperative and coordinated effort to develop and implement successful strategies to cleanup and revitalize the properties . All participants recognize each other as key partners in the ongoing success of the program. The coordinated effort between the participants will ensure there is no duplication of effort at the sites and site cleanup continues in a timely fashion. It is expected that the pilot will result in final approval of the cleanup at the facility several years earlier than planned.

Proposed Project Milestones - This pilot's progress will be measured with the following milestones:

- Additional funding secured to conduct further investigation of Landfill 001
- Completion of remedial investigations for Fire Training Area 4 and 5
- AF approval of NFRAP documents for FT006, ST012, ST017 and ST020
- Review and approval by the TNRCC of recently submitted or to be submitted closure reports for WP011, ST013, ST014, ST015, ST016, ST018, ST019, SS022 and SS023

Measuring and reporting the Progress of the Pilot -Progress of the pilot will be the actual closure of identified sites and TNRCC issuance of a Certificate of Completion for each IRP site. The participants are striving to close 75% of the sites by Fall 2001. The participants meet formally monthly and informally weekly to report status. The team also maintains a summary table showing all of the sites, where the base is in the process, what is the next step, and what the recommendation is to reach closure. Additionally, they are compiling a summary of all "lessons learned".

Application of the Pilot Innovations for other projects -The concept of a "corrective action expeditors" from each of the respective participants allows focus on cleanup goals and continued attention on those cleanups that have been stalled or delayed. These site cleanups have been delayed due to confusion concerning regulator comments, resource constraints at the base or contracting delays. Another object of this pilot is to experiment with applying previously tested and approved cleanup technologies to sites of known contamination without additional study or interim reporting and proceed directly to closure and long term monitoring.