

## **Environmental Restoration Program**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) is responsible for environmental restoration at Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB). As the lead agency, AFCEC works with regulatory oversight from the California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). As a team, we work to restore VSFB sites with contaminated soil, soil vapor, and groundwater to protect the health and safety of our guardians, their families, and the environment. Links to public notices announcing remedial activities at VSFB will be posted here, including the ability to sign up for public notifications by email.

### **BACKGROUND**

Vandenberg's launch operations, particularly during the Cold War era, left behind soil and groundwater contamination on which the Environmental Restoration Program focuses. VSFB has the third largest restoration program in the Air Force. Restoration efforts have resulted in the environmental investigation and cleanup of soil, soil vapor, and groundwater, without interfering with critical ongoing and proposed mission activities.

Environmental restoration at VSFB includes distinct programs: the Installation Restoration Program (IRP); Compliance Restoration Program (CRP); Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP); and Emergent Chemicals Program (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances [PFAS] investigations).

Currently, there are 32 IRP sites, three CRP sites, and 28 MMRP sites under investigation at VSFB. Land use controls that restrict future land and groundwater use are currently in place for many IRP and MMRP sites. There are currently 5 PFAS sites undergoing remedial investigation. The programs are summarized below.

#### **Installation Restoration Program (IRP)**

IRP investigations address historical contamination from past activities, typically for contaminant releases that occurred before 1985. The IRP addresses two general site types: coastal space launch complexes and cantonment area industrial sites. At some of the space launch complexes, past launch practices resulted in large-scale dissolved solvent plumes that impact groundwater. Sandblasting practices at some launch facilities resulted in polychlorinated biphenyls and metals contamination in surface soil; most of this soil has been removed.

#### **Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP)**

The MMRP addresses unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions, and munitions constituents (such as explosives residues) left behind from past military training, testing, or disposal activities. Similar to the IRP, the MMRP follows a site investigation process that includes site inventory, risk assessment, remedial investigation, and cleanup or containment.

#### **Compliance Restoration Program (CRP)**

The CRP is driven by regulatory compliance during current operations, typically for contamination releases that occurred in 1985 and later. Many of the CRP sites are abandoned underground storage tanks that were formerly used to store petroleum products or oils, and may only require removal. Other sites, such as former landfill areas and industrial facilities, may require cleanup.

### **PFAS and Emergent Chemical Remedial Investigation Program**

Currently, the purpose of this program is to collect soil, groundwater, and surface water samples to delineate the presence of PFAS at VSFB. Based on investigations completed to date, there is no danger to base workers or residents due to PFAS levels in soil and groundwater at VSFB and a background PFAS study is planned. Remedial investigations for PFAS are ongoing and the Community Advisory Board will be notified, and online Administrative Record updated as PFAS investigation projects are completed.

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Every Five Years, AFCEC prepares a Community Involvement Plan to inform how the VSFB environmental restoration team conducts public outreach about cleanup (restoration) activities and how community members can engage and participate in the restoration process. A copy of this Community Involvement Plan is available to the public on AFCEC's Administrative Record website, which can be accessed at: <https://ar.cce.af.mil/>. At a minimum, the Community Involvement Plan should be updated every 5 years

The Environmental Restoration Program provides restoration project information via meetings with the Community Advisory Board, publishing public notices regarding remedial activities planned at VSFB, posting fact sheets, informational brochures, and posting public review documents at the Vandenberg Community Library and Lompoc Library. We also seek to engage the community by posting environmental restoration information on this website.

Individuals seeking membership in the Community Advisory Board are vetted with the goal of maintaining a diverse representation of community interests and individuals who are committed to sharing information with others in their communities. To inquire about applying to be a Community Advisory Board member, please contact our Restoration Program Manager at (805) 606-0623 or our Community Relations Manager at (805) 606-2812.

### **WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION**

There are several public information repositories with technical information about VSFB's environmental restoration activities. The most comprehensive website is AFCEC's Administrative record, which can be online at:

<https://ar.cce.af.mil/>

The State Water Resources Control Board also has an online information repository, known as GeoTracker. Geotracker can be accessed at:

[https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/military\\_base?pca\\_num=16626](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/military_base?pca_num=16626)

The DTSC information repository is known as EnviroStor. EnviroStor is available online at:  
[http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=42970003](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=42970003)