



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Environmental Quality



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Governor

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### Environmental News

#### **Part of Former England Air Force Base Declared Ready for Reuse**

BATON ROUGE -- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a Ready for Reuse determination to the former England Air Force Base. A ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, June 30, at 11:30 a.m. at its facility in Alexandria.

A Ready for Reuse determination recognizes when contamination on a property has been cleaned to the extent that the property is safe based on its current or planned future use. It also provides specific information about each site, including the nature and extent of contamination, the cleanup work performed (if needed) and the status of the property with respect to state and federal requirements.

The EPA and DEQ agree that the facility has successfully conducted investigation and risk management activities at the site, which now houses the 18-hole OakWing Golf Course. The two agencies also agree that the environmental conditions at the course are protective of human health and the environment based on its current and anticipated future use as a commercial/industrial (non-residential) property.

DEQ Secretary Mike McDaniel stated, "This is a significant accomplishment and we are extremely pleased with the hard work by all parties involved. DEQ has made the Ready for Reuse program an integral part of our overall remediation efforts to clean and return contaminated properties to productive uses.

EPA Multimedia Planning and Permitting Deputy Director William Luthans said, "Today's announcement highlights our newest program to promote the reuse of formerly used industrial properties. We are building on our experience using the enormously successful brownfields program. Our Ready for Reuse determinations clear the way for reuse of valuable natural resources by providing necessary encouragement and assurances to developers."

England, a former United States Air Force Base, is located on approximately 2,604 acres northeast of Alexandria in Rapides Parish. The base was closed on December 15, 1992. Currently, the England Economic and Industrial Development District own and leases the base and under its administration has redeveloped and reused it. The base is now a mixed-use facility serving as the Alexandria International Airport and England Airpark. Other redeveloped portions of the base include the Louisiana State University Medical Center at Alexandria, housing units, a daycare facility, a restaurant, a new hotel, numerous light industrial and commercial businesses, and the expanded and improved golf course.

This is the first federal facility in Louisiana and one of only three air force bases in the nation to receive a Ready for Reuse determination. For more information about Ready for Reuse determinations, contact Doug Bradford with DEQ at 225.219.3420.