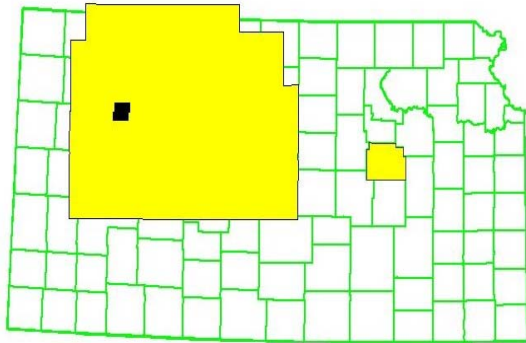


**TRI-COUNTY PUBLIC
AIRPORT**
KANSAS
EPA ID# KS0001402320

EPA Region 7
City: NA
County: Morris
Other Names:

07/06/2007



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Tri-County Public Airport (TCPA) facility comprises approximately 3.5 square miles and is located in rural Morris County, Kansas. The TCPA was originally constructed as the Herington Army Airfield (HAAF) in 1942 and was officially declared surplus in 1946. Between 1942 and 1944 the U.S. Government acquired the real property which comprised the HAAF and covered 1,724 acres. The primary function of the HAAF was the processing of heavy bombardment crews and equipment before deployment overseas. Activities at the HAAF included aircraft and vehicle maintenance, pilot training, marksmanship, and aircraft support operations. The main facilities at the HAAF included runways, hangars, aircraft maintenance shops, fuel storage tanks, motor pools, barracks, administration buildings, a sewage treatment plant, and a landfill. In 1948 title to the HAAF was conveyed to the city of Herington, Kansas. Most of the 300 buildings and structures associated with HAAF have been razed or removed. From 1948 to the present, the site has been used by a number of companies for various purposes. Operations have included aircraft restoration, plane storage, and manufacturing of farm implements, black powder, and roofing materials. From 1950 to the early 1960s, Beech Aircraft (Beech) leased all four hangars and several other buildings at the site. As part of its manufacturing operations at the site, Beech used several chemical processes which included the use of trichlorethylene degreasers and chromic acid solutions. In 1980, the Raytheon Aircraft Company (RAC) acquired Beech.

Site Responsibility:

The site is being addressed through Federal, State,

NPL LISTING HISTORY

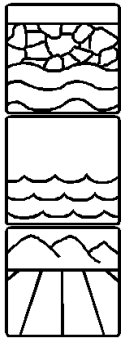
Proposed Date: 07/27/2000

and potentially responsibility parties' actions.

Final Date:

Deleted Date:

THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS



The ground water has been contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE) and degradation products to a distance of approximately 3 miles to the north and northwest of TCPA, including the entire town of Latimer, Kansas. TCE has been detected in ground water samples collected from private wells within this distance at concentrations ranging from 3 micrograms per liter (ug/L) to 280 ug/L. TCE concentrations in 21 private wells samples exceeded the 5 ug/L maximum contaminant level (MCL) established by EPA. The highest concentration of TCE in a sample from a drinking water well was collected from the nearest private property directly north of TCPA. The results of monitoring well sampling showed that TCE is present in three different aquifers and is migrating to the northwest of the airport. These aquifers are used for private drinking water and agricultural purposes. No municipal systems draw ground water from within 4 miles of the airfield; however, 92 private wells have been identified within this area. The results of the spring sampling verified the presence of TCE in several area springs. Soils contaminated with TCE were identified at three areas on the Tri-County Public Airport property.

CLEANUP APPROACH

Response Action Status

Beginning in 1995, investigations of the site and surrounding area have been conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), and the EPA. To further characterize the extent and source of the contamination, EPA conducted an expanded site investigation/remedial investigation (ESI/RI). This investigation involved sampling at the Tri-County Public Airport site as well as the surrounding area. Both soil and groundwater were sampled as part of this effort.

From November 1997 until January 24, 2001, EPA provided bottled drinking water to approximately eighteen residences where drinking water was found to exceed the MCLs for TCE of 5 ug/l. One home, with concentrations of TCE over 100 ug/l was provided with a whole house carbon filtration system as the result of an October 16, 1997, health consult from the

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

In March 2000 RAC entered into an agreement with EPA for a removal action which includes providing whole-house filtration units for residences with water supply wells exceeding the MCL for TCE. The removal also includes monitoring to assure that the filtration units are removing volatile organic chemicals and that all wells exceeding the MCLs for TCE and degradation products have a filtration unit installed. Installation of the whole-house treatment systems under the requirements on the Administrative Order on Consent was initiated on September 6, 2000.

In December 2000 KDHE and RAC entered into a Consent Order which requires RAC to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Tri-County Public Airport site. RAC is currently conducting the RI/FS under a work plan dated February 8, 2001.

An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) was prepared for the Herington Regional Airport north hangar TCE source area which involved reviewing available site investigations, collecting samples, and conducting a pilot study. The EE/CA provides background information on the site, identifies the removal action objectives, reviews potential cleanup alternatives, and recommends a final response action alternative. The EPA accepted written comments on the EE/CA for period a of 30 days starting on September 4, 2003. The EPA received comments on the EE/CA and EPA prepared a response to these comments

The EPA prepared an Action Memorandum which is the document EPA used to select the response action alternative for the contaminated soil at the north hangar area. The EPA selected excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil within an engineered disposal cell as the alternative to address the contaminated soil in the north hangar area. This alternative is described in the EE/CA.

Negotiations with RAC did not produce a consensual agreement for the removal action at the north hangar area. EPA issued a unilateral administrative order (UAO) for the non time critical removal action at the north hangar area in September of 2004. RAC complied with the UAO and the field work for the removal was completed in October of 2005. RAC has filed suit against the federal government as a result of the UAO and is currently in litigation.

The City and County were able to receive grant money from several agencies and constructed a new water line from the City of Herington to the airport and the outlying affected residences. The completion of all hookups to the new water line was in January of 2007. The whole-house treatment systems were removed in February of 2007.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS



In March 2000 RAC entered into an agreement with EPA for a removal action which includes providing whole-house filtration units for residences with water supply wells exceeding the MCL for trichloroethylene. The removal also includes monitoring to assure that the filtration units are removing volatile organic chemicals and that all wells exceeding the MCLs have a filtration unit installed. Installation of the whole-house treatment systems under the requirements on the Administrative Order on Consent was initiated on September 6, 2000. A new water line has now been installed and as of January of 2007 all affected residents are being provided a safe supply of water. The ground water plume is being monitored and a RI/FS is being conducted by RAC at the site under an agreement with KDHE.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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March 1998 - Fact sheet was mailed announcing that well samples indicated VOCs in ground water. Bottled water is being provided by EPA and KDHE to citizens whose drinking water exceed the MCL for trichloroethylene (TCE), carbon tetrachloride and/or ethylene dibromide.

April 1998 - Fact sheet, letter to citizens, ad and advisory were sent to the media announcing an information session to be held on May 4, 1998 to answer questions.

June 1998 - Community Involvement Plan was finalized.

June 1998 - Letter was mailed announcing that EPA will be present at the Agency for Toxic Disease Substance Registry (ATSDR) public availability session June 13.

June 1998 - Ad was published that stated EPA was seeking information from former air field workers concerning the Tri-County Public Airport.

Sept. 1999 - Fact sheet was mailed announcing the expanded Site Investigation/Feasibility Study (SI/FS) was completed.

August 2000 - Press release sent to the media that proposed site for the National Priorities List (NPL).

May 2003 - Letter and fact sheet mailed to citizens stating that EPA was conducting sampling of soil, water and air in an effort to evaluate potential contamination.

Sept. 2003 - Fact sheet was mailed stating the EE/CA was completed.

Sept. 2003 Letter was mailed announcing public availability session on September 16, 2003 to respond to questions.

June 2005 - Fact sheet and ad announcing a public availability session to discuss the removal action scheduled to start the week of June 27 at Hangar 1 area.

SITE REPOSITORY



Herington Public Library
102 South Broadway
Herington, Kansas 67449
(785) 258-2011

Superfund Records Center
901 N. 5th St.
Kansas City, KS 66101
Mail Stop SUPR
(913)551-7166

REGIONAL CONTACTS

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E-MAIL ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

Ken Rapplean/SUPR/R7/USEPA/US

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**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
COORDINATOR:**

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PHONE NUMBER:

Jean Underwood, KDHE

(785) 291-3255

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

STATE:

KS

07XS

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

KS-1

EPA ORGANIZATION:

SFD-

MODIFICATIONS

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