



Vandenberg Air Force Base Installation Restoration Program Removing Contamination at Sites 5 & 35



Vandenberg Air Force Base, California

May 2001

Installation Restoration Program

INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet describes the proposed environmental cleanup actions at two Installation Restoration Program (IRP) sites on Vandenberg Air Force Base. The IRP is an Air Force program to identify and cleanup contamination on military bases resulting from past activities. This fact sheet also describes how to review and comment on the proposed cleanup actions.

SITE 5 BACKGROUND

Site 5, Space Launch Complex No. 3 East (SLC-3E), is located in the southern half of Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB), California. SLC-3E is an active Atlas missile launching facility where a total of 28 Atlas missiles have been launched. Since the completion of recent reconstruction, the SLC-3E launch complex has supported one launch. Launch deluge water used for fire and noise suppression during Atlas missile testing and launches is channeled away from the launch pad to a retention basin. In 1994, environmental investigations revealed a small pile of suspected sandblast grit that had been dumped on surface soil at the eastern side of this retention basin.



Site 5 with drilling rig and SLC-3E in background.

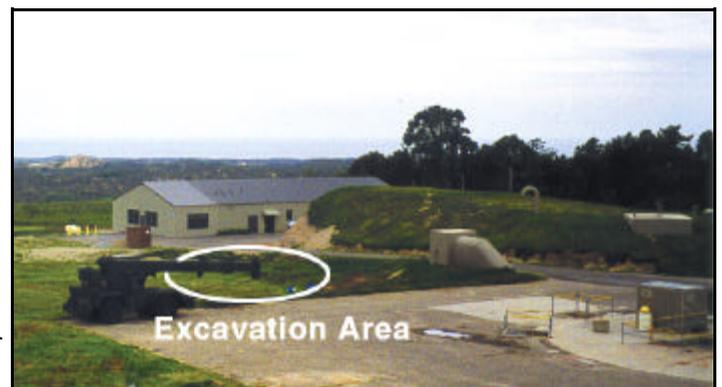
Under the IRP, surface and subsurface soil samples were collected from the suspected sandblast grit area and analyzed for the presence of metals. Several metals were detected above the background levels in surface and subsurface soil in the area. Although the subsurface soil sample results do not indicate that metals from the sandblast grit area have leached into the subsurface, lead levels in surface soil samples indicate potential risks to construction workers on the site.

SITE 5 CLEANUP/REMOVAL ALTERNATIVES

In coordination with the state Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), a Removal Action Work Plan (RAW) was developed to address the lead-contaminated soil at the sandblast grit area. The RAW identified and screened the following removal alternatives: no action; onsite stabilization of the soil; and, excavation and proper management/disposal of soil. Vandenberg AFB has assessed cleanup alternatives at this site and recommends excavation and disposal of the sandblast grit contaminated soil. This alternative is the most protective of human health and the environment.

SITE 35 BACKGROUND

Site 35, Missile Silo 576-G, is located in the northern half of Vandenberg AFB. The site is a former Atlas F missile launching facility, and consists of a decommissioned missile silo, a control center, and a utility building located within a barbed wire livestock fence. Seven Atlas missiles were launched from Site 35 from 1962 to 1965. Environmental investigations indicate elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in surface and subsurface soils. A human health risk assessment conducted for the site indicated that the PCB levels detected in the soil within the fenced area pose an unacceptable risk to current and future site workers.



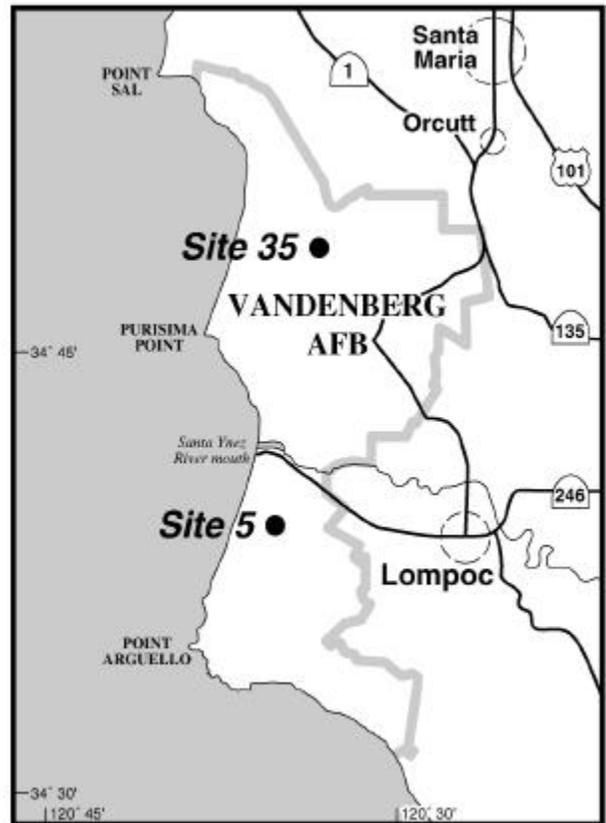
Site 35 soil excavation area.

SITE 35 CLEANUP/REMOVAL ALTERNATIVES

In coordination with DTSC, a RAW was developed to address the PCB-contaminated soil within the fenced area at Site 35. The RAW identified and screened the following removal alternatives: no action; capping the soil with an impermeable cover; and, excavation and proper management/disposal of the soil. Vandenberg AFB has assessed cleanup alternatives at this site and recommends excavation and disposal of the PCB-contaminated soil. This would eliminate potential current and future exposure pathways that the contaminated soils create. It would also be the most protective of human health and the environment.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A 30-day public review and comment period has been set for May 16 through June 16, 2001, to receive public input on the draft RAW for each site. Also available for review and comment during this time will be the Draft Negative Declaration, a finding by DTSC that the proposed cleanup actions will not have a significant effect on the environment, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The documents will be available at two information repositories: Lompoc Library, Public Documents Section, 501 East North Ave., Lompoc; and Vandenberg AFB Library, Public Documents Section, 100 Community Loop, Bldg. 10343, Vandenberg AFB. Comments on the RAWs must be postmarked by June 7 and sent to Mr. Ron MacLelland, Community Relations Coordinator, 806 13th Street, Suite 116, Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437. Comments on the Negative Declaration should be postmarked by June 7 and sent to: Mr. Omoruyi Patrick, DTSC Project Manager, 5796 Corporate Ave., Cypress, CA 90630. E-mailed comments will also be accepted at opatrick@dtsc.ca.gov.



Location map showing Sites 5 and 35 in relation to neighboring cities.

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