

Lahontan Water Board Program Fact Sheet FY 2016-17

Department of Defense (DoD) Sites Cleanup Program

Overview

The DoD program addresses the cleanup of pollutants at military facilities. The Water Board's oversight work is conducted under the Defense and State Memorandum of Agreement (DSMOA), which specifies the current and planned restoration efforts and provides for cost recovery for regulatory oversight. There are approximately 6 PYs assigned to DoD work this FY. The Water Board is responsible for:

- Ensuring site investigations and cleanup decisions are technically adequate and comply with State laws, regulations and policies;
- Concurring with DoD decision documents if action complies with regulatory requirements.

There are 576 active cleanup sites in the DoD program and most of the sites consist of solvent or petroleum releases. Some sites are contaminated by pesticides, metals, nitrate, and munitions-related chemicals. Sites are located at the following facilities: • Former George Air Force Base (GAFB), Victorville • Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB), Lancaster • China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (CLNAWS), Ridgecrest • Air Force Plant No. 42 (AFP 42), Palmdale • Fort Irwin National Training Center (Ft. Irwin NTC), Barstow • Marine Corps Logistics Base - Yermo and Nebo Annexes (MCLB), Barstow • Sierra Army Depot (SIAD), Susanville • Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC), Coleville.

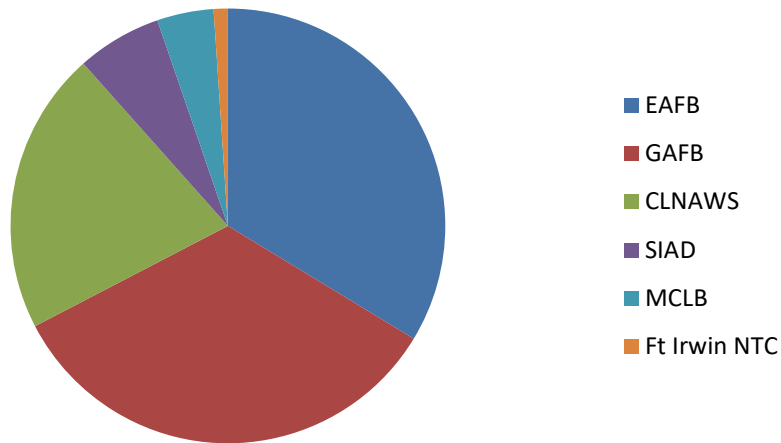
Key Efforts

Program priorities are protection of human health and the environment, which are achieved by remediation of soil and groundwater and controlling exposure to contaminants.

DoD has set aggressive, and in some cases, unrealistic schedules for completion of active remediation. At many sites, DoD is developing remedies that focus on land use controls instead of restoration of groundwater quality in a reasonable timeframe. Where necessary, Water Board staff request better site characterization and active remediation. Major staff efforts include:

- EAFB: Refining the conceptual site model through working group sessions and additional investigations to provide a more robust basis for remedial decisions.
- GAFB: Working with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to obtain the Air Force's agreement to conduct active remediation of groundwater and faster groundwater restoration.
- CLNAWS: Collaborating with the Navy on investigation efforts at multiple sites to support feasibility studies and remedial decisions.
- SIAD: Staff have identified groundwater contaminants that have not been adequately evaluated and are working to ensure these contaminants are investigated to characterize contamination and evaluate threat.
- MCLB: Collaborating on an amendment to address a former skeet range/storage area.
- Ft. Irwin NTC: Evaluating pilot study results to support feasibility study.
- Navy and Air Force facilities are evaluating sites for the presence of emerging contaminant class of perfluorinated compounds (PFC). Efforts are ongoing.

Percent of Staff Time by Facility



Accomplishments

Five Year Reviews of selected sites with final remedies in place were completed at EAFB, GAFB, and SIAD. Staff agreed that the selected remedies were largely protective in the short term, but found several of the remedies at EAFB, GAFB, and SIAD would not be protective in the long-term. Staff will continue to work for remedy changes to provide long-term protectiveness for all sites.

Record of Decision Amendment for clean closure of a GAFB landfill was completed.

Removal Actions (soil excavation) were conducted under CERCLA, three at EAFB and one at GAFB. These removal actions were conducted for long-term protection of human health and environment and elimination or prevention of land use restrictions.

Four UST cases were closed, three at GAFB and one at CLNAWS.

Pesticide contamination- Staff requests for delineation of the GAFB pesticide groundwater contamination resulted in the installation of several new monitoring wells. Additionally GAFB has agreed to abandon several poorly constructed or damaged supply and remedial action wells that could serve as vertical conduits for contaminant migration.

MCLB - Installed new wells to fill data gaps near base remediation area to verify plume containment.

Performance measures FY 15-16 and 16-17

Because of the long-term nature of the DoD program, there are no specific annual performance measures, other than tracking new sites that move into active remediation (none for this year or last year).

Unaddressed Work

- Non-CERCLA site report review have not been completed in order to review reports prioritized by DoD under Performance-Based Contracts with strict review timelines established under Federal Facility Agreements.
- Other report reviews are not completed where other agencies are in lead such as Department of Toxic Substances Control.
- Report reviews are postponed to adjust to DoD priorities.