



Tucson International Airport Area Superfund Site

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US EPA Begins Five-Year Review of Tucson International Airport Area Superfund Site

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has begun the five-year review of cleanup actions undertaken at the Tucson International Airport Area Superfund Site, in Tucson, Arizona. The review will evaluate whether the cleanup actions are protective of human health and the environment.

The Review Process

When EPA's cleanup remedy leaves some waste in place or the remedy will take longer than five years to complete, the Superfund law requires an evaluation of the protectiveness of remedial systems every five years, until the Site has been cleaned up sufficiently to allow unrestricted access.

The purpose of the five-year review is to understand how the constructed remedy is operating and to measure the progress towards achieving the Site's cleanup objectives. This five-year review will evaluate the existing remedy in terms of short- and long-term protectiveness of human health and the environment.

Specifically, EPA will look at the movement and/or breakdown of the Site's remaining contaminants located in the groundwater plume at Air Force Plant 44 and in Area A of the Tucson International Airport Area Superfund site. Area A includes the groundwater contamination associated with Tucson Airport Property and the Tucson Area Remediation Project (TARP).

Remedial activities associated with the removal of PCB contaminated soils and the closure of landfills will not be included in this five-year review as those activities concluded within the last two years. Area B will not be included in this five-year review as there was a change of remedy implemented in 2012 and remedial operations will not be initiated until 2013.

It is anticipated that the five-year review planned for 2018 will include all areas of the Tucson International Airport Area Superfund site.

EPA will consult with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), other regulatory authorities, EPA's scientific experts, and interview interested members of the public.

When completed, a copy of the final report will be placed in the local information repository listed below, a public notice will appear in the local paper, and the results will be provided in a fact sheet to EPA's mailing list.

EPA will monitor the Site and conduct additional five-year reviews until the Site has been sufficiently cleaned up to allow unrestricted use.

Site History

At least twenty separate facilities have operated at the TIAA site since 1942 including: aircraft and electronics facilities (which discharged waste liquids directly into the soil), fire drill training areas (where wastes from training operations were left in unlined pits), and unlined landfills (which received various wastes from several sources).

Major sources of contamination were found at Air Force Plant 44 and at the airport property. Minor sources of soil and groundwater contamination were found at the Burr-Brown Corporation, Arizona Air National Guard Base and the former West-Cap of Arizona facilities.

Tucson International Airport Area was identified as a Federal Superfund site in 1982.

Cleanup Activities

A total of 11 City drinking water wells and several more private household wells have been shut down. A total of more than 40 billion gallons of groundwater has been treated and more than 130,000 pounds of volatile organic compounds (VOC) were removed from soils and groundwater throughout the site. In addition, 100,000 tons of metals, 10,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soils and 2,000 tons of PCB/VOC contaminated sludges have been removed. In 1994, EPA and Pima County officials completed a study that concluded that no known private well users on the south side of Tucson are currently drinking contaminated groundwater. Groundwater cleanup actions continue in all areas, with additional cleanup systems scheduled for the future.

Community Involvement

EPA is always interested in hearing from the public. If you have any issues or concerns about the Tucson International Airport Area Superfund site cleanup, and particularly if you have issues or concerns regarding the operation and maintenance of the existing remedy, EPA would like to talk with you. Please contact Martin Zeleznik, EPA Remedial Project Manager (See Page 3).

One good way to learn about cleanup activities at the Tucson International Airport Area Superfund site is to attend the quarterly Unified Community Advisory Board (UCAB) meetings. The meetings are open to the public, and representatives from the government regulators and the responsible parties are available to answer questions. For more information, you may contact the Board's Community Co-Chair, Yolanda Herrera (520-991-3307).

If you would like to be included on our mailing list and receive future fact sheets, please contact David Cooper, EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator (See Page 3).

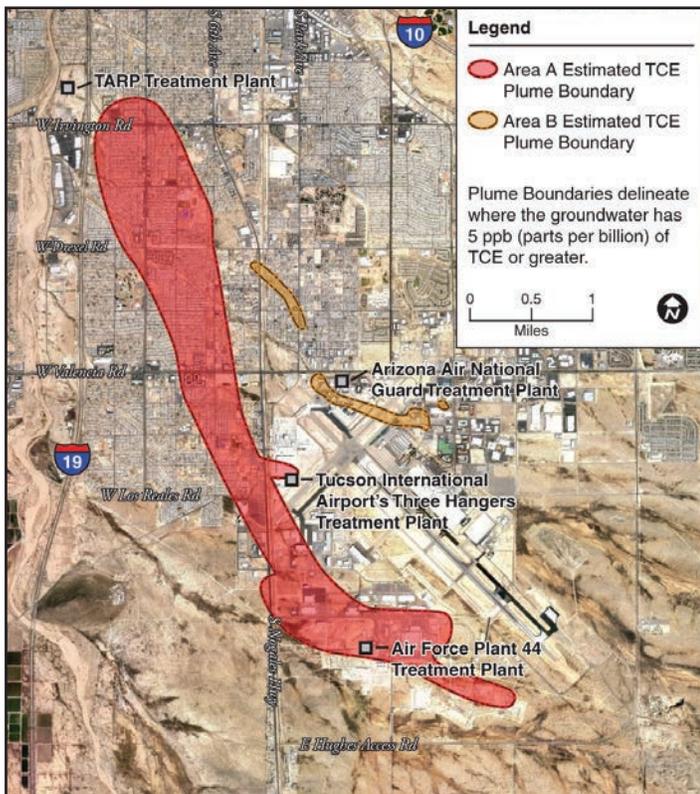


Figure 1: 2011 mapped data for concentrations of TCE in groundwater.

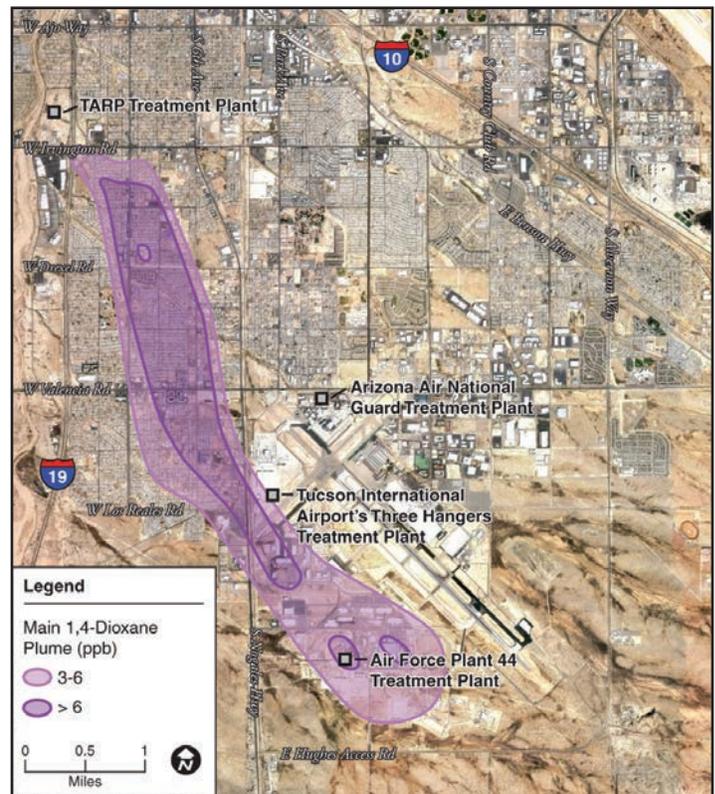


Figure 2: 2008 mapped data for concentrations of 1,4 Dioxane in groundwater. New data is currently being obtained.

For More Information



Please visit the Site website at: www.epa.gov/region09/tucsonairport.

Or visit the information repository to review the administrative record or contact EPA representatives.

Information Repository

Tucson Public Library
 El Pueblo Neighborhood Center
 101 W. Irvington
 Tucson, AZ 85714
 (520) 791-4733

EPA Records Center
 95 Hawthorne Street, 4th Floor
 San Francisco, CA 94105
 (415) 536-2000

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