



FACT SHEET

460TH SPACE WING

460th Space Wing Office of Public Affairs • 510 S. Aspen St (Stop 88) • Buckley AFB, CO 80011 • Phone (720) 847-9431

Invitation to Comment on the Proposed Plan for Site 5 at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado

You have the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Plan for the final remedy for Site 5 at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), Colorado. The location of Site 5, known as Fire Training Area #1, is shown on Figure 1. Following multiple environmental investigations at Site 5, the recommended remedy is no further action. The investigations adequately characterized the site and no unacceptable risk to human health or the environment remains at the site. Therefore, the Proposed Plan/Record of Decision administrative process is leading to a no further action final remedy for the site.

The United States Air Force (USAF), United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) want to hear your views about the plan for this site. A public meeting will be held on April 21, 2011 at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, 14305 East Alameda Avenue, Suite 300, Aurora, Colorado. You may make comments at the public meeting. You also have from April 14, 2011 until May 13, 2011 to supply written comments on the Proposed Plan or other information in the Information Repository. At the end of the comment period, the USAF will review your comments or other information and make a final decision about this site. Your input on the Proposed Plan is an important part of the decision-making process. We want to hear from you and will give serious attention to what you have to say.

Site History

Site 5 is located within the northeast section of Buckley AFB on the north side of Steamboat Avenue and adjacent to Taxiway H (Figure 1). Buckley AFB fire department training activities were conducted at Site 5 in the late 1940s and early 1950s, covering an approximately five-year time period. Site 5 reportedly consisted of an unlined circular bermed fire training area about 100 feet by 100 feet in horizontal dimensions. Aviation gasoline was set on fire within the burn area and subsequently extinguished by the trainees. The training frequency and the amount of fuel burned are unknown. In later years, Site 5 was used as a "firing-in" range for the alignment of aircraft guns, and currently supports an aircraft engine test facility. Development of the area to an aircraft engine test facility included the placement of fill soils, re-grading of the ground surface, and partial capping of the former burn area with a concrete power check pad. The use of this facility is sporadic and it is largely maintained as an alternative to an existing "hush house," located elsewhere on Buckley AFB. Portions of Site 5 are also currently used as a contractor staging area, with storage trailers and spare vehicles temporarily located adjacent to the check pad area.

Multiple investigations have been conducted at Site 5 since 1985, which included groundwater, soil, and soil gas sampling. All investigations are summarized in the Final Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report completed in April 2010. Results indicated there are no contaminants of concern in groundwater. Lead was detected above background concentrations for Buckley AFB in one soil sample. Three volatile organic compounds (tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, and vinyl chloride) were evaluated

further based on their concentrations in the latest soil gas survey relative to EPA's screening criteria for shallow soil gas (see below).

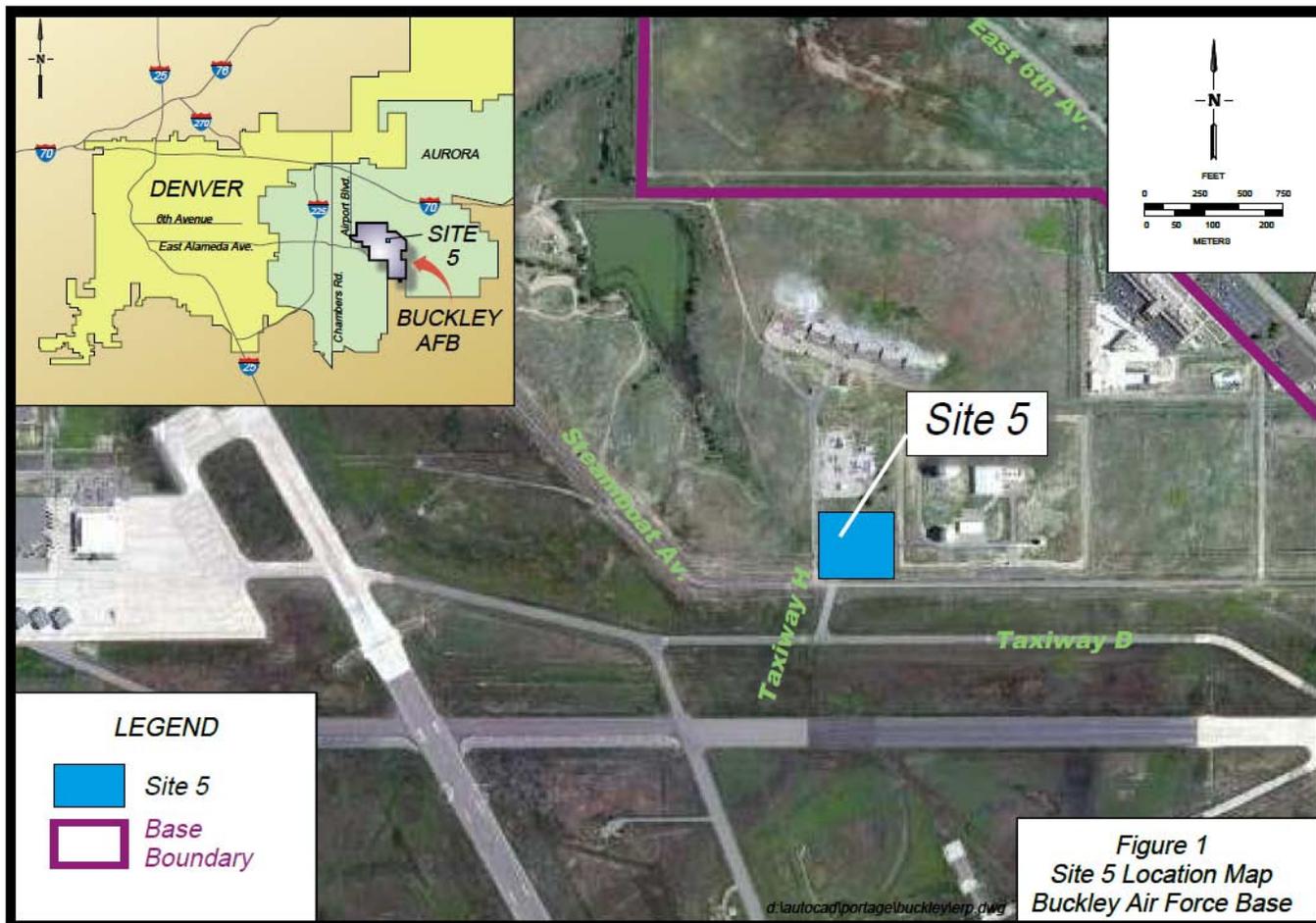
Summary of Site Risks

The maximum lead concentration in soil was evaluated to determine if this level posed risks to public health or the environment. Based on the assessment, lead does not pose unacceptable risks.

An EPA vapor intrusion model was also employed to assess risks associated with the three volatile organic compounds found in Site 5 soil gas. Based on the model output, soil gas at the site does not pose unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Because there are also no unacceptable risks related to site groundwater or soil, these conditions satisfy criteria for closure of Site 5, and no further response action is planned. The Proposed Plan recommends no further action for Site 5 on this basis. EPA and CDPHE concur with this recommendation.

Your Comments

We will welcome your comments at the public meeting. At the end of the comment period on May 13, 2011, the USAF will review your comments and make a decision about the final remedy. Your input on the Proposed Plan is an important part of the decision-making process. Once the final decision is made, it will be formalized in a Record of Decision. That document will include a summary of comments received from the public and any changes to the decision based on public input.



Tell Us What You Think

Location of Information Repository



Aurora Public Library, Central
14949 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora, CO 80012
Phone: (303) 739-6600
Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Proposed Plan is also available at
www.buckley.af.mil under the Library Tab
(in Environmental Information).

The comment period runs from:
April 14, 2011
through
May 13, 2011

Submit Written Comments



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Attend the Public Meeting



Public Meeting:
You are invited to a meeting to hear about the Proposed Plan for Site 5. At the meeting, you will be able to state your views about the site. The meeting will be:

April 21, 2011
6:00 p.m.
at
Aurora Chamber of Commerce
14305 East Alameda Avenue,
Suite 300,
Aurora, Colorado 80012