

Overview of CERCLA at Site SS045

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)

The CERCLA Process

USAF follows the DODs plan for cleanup of past environmental releases consists of following the EPAs CERCLA process to investigate releases, prioritize responses, and determine appropriate cleanup actions based on risk to human health and the environment. The process ensures that facilities take and document a **consistent, systematic, and thorough** approach to investigate and cleanup environmental releases. As USAF moves through the CERCLA process, it works in collaboration with regulatory agencies, communities, and other stakeholders to ensure open and transparent information sharing. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program (10 U.S. Code §§ 2700-2711) provides authorities to DoD to perform and fund these actions and requires that they be carried out in accordance with CERCLA.

Preliminary Assessment / Site Inspection

A Preliminary Assessment (PA) includes a historical record search and interviews with employees who have historical knowledge of the operations that may have contributed to a potential release. The information collected from the record search and the interviews helps determine whether there is a potential historical release and if further investigation is warranted.

The Site Inspection (SI) includes a physical inspection of the site with limited sampling of soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater to **determine whether there is evidence of a release and if further investigation is warranted**.

The results of the SI, completed in 2021, indicated concentrations of several chemicals exceeding project screening levels, and therefore, additional investigation and evaluation was warranted. The RI contract was funded in 2023 to begin the next phase as described below.

Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study

The Remedial Investigation (RI) collects **detailed** information through field investigations. This investigation includes determining the nature and extent of the release to answer, **“how much?”**, **“how far?”**, and **“from where?”** This phase also looks at potential exposure pathways including air, soils, sediments, surface water, and groundwater.

If the chemicals from a release at a site are below the unacceptable risk level, no further work is required. If unacceptable risk to human health and the environment based on EPA's risk assessment policies, then DoD will conduct a Feasibility Study (FS). A FS evaluates the potential cleanup alternatives and selection of a proposed remedy based on the nature and extent of the release determined in the RI phase.

Currently we are working toward completing the RI for the Shiloh West, Shiloh East, and Galaxy housing areas. The final analysis and RI report is expected in late 2026.

POC: Scott AFB Restoration Program
Office: Mr. Joe Weber 618-256-2125