



California Beale AFB

Facility and Location

Beale Air Force Base (AFB) opened in October 1942 as a training site for the 13th Armored and 81st and 96th Infantry Divisions. In 1948, the camp transferred from the Army to the Air Force and bombardier and navigator training was conducted. In 1951, Beale Bombing and Gunnery Range was reactivated for aviation engineer training. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers oversaw the construction of mechanical, pneudraulics, cryogenic, propulsion, and liquid oxygen shops to support the Titan missile systems house from 1959 to 1965. Explosive ordnance was disposed of onsite via open burn/open detonation activities. The base is currently home to the 9th Reconnaissance Wing.

Media Sampled and Findings

Drinking Water — In 2010, two samples reported no detection. In 2009, one of two samples detected perchlorate at 2.5 ppb. In 2008, one sample reported no detection. Prior to 2007, sampling at Wells 1 through 9, under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule of the Safe Drinking Water Act, reported no detection.

Groundwater — In 2011, 17 of 18 samples detected perchlorate from 0.19 to 56 ppb. In 2010, four of four samples detected perchlorate from 0.15 to 110 ppb. In 2009, 11 of 22 samples detected perchlorate from 0.19 to 130 ppb. In 2008, 46 of 54 samples detected perchlorate from 0.08 to 93 ppb. In 2007, 22 of 22 samples detected perchlorate from 0.08 to 92 ppb. Prior to 2007, samples taken from seven groundwater monitoring wells at Site 16 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Area detected perchlorate from 3.6 to 492 ppb. Additional sampling of groundwater detected perchlorate in 7 of 11 samples with a high of 130 ppb.

Sediment — In 2007, 17 samples reported no detection.

Surface Water — In 2010, six of nine samples detected perchlorate from 0.05 to 0.11 ppb. In 2009, seven samples reported no detection. In 2008, five of five samples detected perchlorate from 0.08 to 0.76 ppb. In 2007, 7 of 17 samples detected perchlorate from 0.08 to 0.4 ppb.

Appropriate Actions

Perchlorate has been detected at concentrations up to 110 ppb at the EOD range which is associated with Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) activities at Site 16. These levels are above the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb. Site 16 has been closed via a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) determination, but EOD training still occurs, and Beale AFB retains an active RCRA Part B permit as for each stage two emergency detonation. A Remedial Investigation was completed, and a revised final Site 16 Feasibility Study report submitted in July 2010. In September 2010, the final Site 16 Monitored Natural Attenuation Assessment Work Plan was submitted. Site 16 is currently in the Remedial Action-Operation phase. The Interim Record of Decision (ROD) specifies groundwater and surface water monitoring until the Final ROD is written in 2016. Until that time, state regulation requires continued monitoring.