



California Former Norton AFB

Facility and Location

Former Norton Air Force Base (AFB), located in San Bernardino County, opened in 1942 to provide aircraft maintenance and repair, and missile program support after World War II. It was home to the 63rd Military Aircraft Wing from 1966 until closure. Land disposal began in 1946 and was underway in 1986. The base supported various missile and ballistic systems. Other activities included aircraft and engine maintenance and a gas turbine engine overhaul facility. Some of these activities are consistent with potential perchlorate use. Past activities at the former base leading to soil and groundwater contamination include: discharge of paint residue and similar substances into unlined pits, ponds, or drying beds; discharge of waste aviation fuel, oil, lubricants, and miscellaneous combustibles during fire training exercises; storage of drums with possible leaks on unprotected surfaces; burial of drums and other unspecified materials; disposal of waste oil and solvents; leakage from underground storage tanks containing waste oil, lubricants, and solvents; and spills of aviation fuel, oil, solvents, polychlorinated biphenyls, and acidic plating solutions onto unprotected surfaces.

Former Norton AFB was placed on the National Priorities List in 1987. The last remedy-in-place was completed in 2005. There is no evidence that Former Norton AFB is a source of perchlorate but it does exist in groundwater (Craftons-Redland Plume) south of the base from an adjacent non-Air Force source. Lockheed is conducting the cleanup and monitoring of the Crafton-Redlands Plume under Cleanup and Abatement Orders 94-37 and 97-58 issued by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. A total of 2,221 acres was transferred to local communities and the base was officially closed in 1994 under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Program. In September 2007, Air Force Real Property Agency representatives delivered the final deed for Former Norton AFB. The property is now known as the San Bernardino International Airport, and officials are hoping to see a busy commercial airport at the former site of Norton AFB in the near future.

Media Sampled and Findings

Groundwater — Prior to 2007, the area has been extensively sampled for perchlorate and all confirmed perchlorate detections are in off-base monitoring wells. The responsible party has been identified and is conducting cleanup and monitoring of the Crafton-Redlands Plume.

Appropriate Actions

Not Applicable. All samples were below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb.