DOCUMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR DETERMINATION

Interim Final 2/5/99

RCRA Corrective Action
Environmental Indicator (EI) RCRIS code (CA725)

Current Human Exposures Under Control

Facility Name: Dyess AFB
Facility Address: 7th Bomb Wing, 7th CES/CEV, and Dyess AFB, TEXAS 79607
Facility EPA ID P: TX 357 192 4643

1. Has **all** available relevant/significant information on known and reasonably suspected releases to soil, groundwater, surface water/sediments, and air, subject to RCRA Corrective Action (e.g., from Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU), Regulated Units (RU), and Areas of Concern (AOC), been **considered** in this EI determination?

   __X__ If yes - check here and continue with #2 below.

   _____ If no - re-evaluate existing data, or

   _____ If data are not available skip to #6 and enter "IN" (more information needed) status code.

BACKGROUND

Definition of Environmental Indicators for the RCRA Corrective Action

Environmental Indicators (EI) are measures being used by the RCRA Corrective Action program to go beyond programmatic activity measures (e.g., reports received and approved, etc.) to track changes in the quality of the environment. The two EI developed to-date indicate the quality of the environment in relation to current human exposures to contamination and the migration of contaminated groundwater. An EI for non-human (ecological) receptors is intended to be developed in the future.

Definition of "Current Human Exposures" Under Control" EI

A positive "Current Human Exposures Under Control" EI determination ("YE" status code) indicates that there are no "unacceptable" human exposures to "contamination" (i.e., contaminants in concentrations in excess of appropriate risk-based levels) that can be reasonably expected under current land and groundwater-use conditions (for all "contamination" subject to RCRA corrective action at or from the identified facility (i.e., site-wide)).

Relationship of EI to Final Remedies

While Final remedies remain the long-term objective of the RCRA Corrective Action program the EI are near-term objectives which are currently being used as Program measures for the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, GPRA). The "Current Human Exposures Under Control" EI are for reasonably expected human exposures under current land and groundwater-use conditions ONLY, and do not consider potential future land or groundwater-use conditions or ecological receptors. The RCRA Corrective Action program's overall mission to protect human health and the environment requires that Final remedies address these issues (i.e., potential future human exposure scenarios, future land and groundwater uses, and ecological receptors).

Duration / Applicability of EI Determinations

EI Determinations status codes should remain in RCRIS national database ONLY as long as they remain true (i.e., RCRIS status codes must be changed when the regulatory authorities become aware of contrary information).

2. Are groundwater, soil, surface water, sediments, or air **media** known or reasonably suspected to be "**contaminated**"[1] above appropriately protective risk-based "levels" (applicable promulgated standards, as well as other appropriate standards, guidelines, guidance, or criteria) from releases subject to RCRA Corrective Action (from SWMUs, RUs or AOCS)?

	Yes	No	?	Rationale / Key Contaminants
Groundwater		X		Groundwater being monitored under TNRCC Compliance Plan CP-50250
Air (indoors) [2]			N/A	
Surface Soil (e.g., <2 ft)		X		Sites closed under TNRCC RRS1, RRS2 & RRS3
Surface Water			N/A	
Sediment			N/A	
Subsurf. Soil (e.g., >2 ft)		X		Sites closed under TNRCC RRS1, RRS2 & RRS3
Air (outdoors)			N/A	

X If no (for all media) - skip to #6, and enter "YE," status code after providing or citing appropriate "levels," and referencing sufficient supporting documentation demonstrating that these "levels" are not exceeded.

_____ If yes (for any media) - continue after identifying key contaminants in each "contaminated" medium, citing appropriate "levels" (or provide an explanation for the determination that the medium could pose an unacceptable risk), and referencing supporting documentation.

_____ If unknown (for any media) - skip to #6 and enter "IN" status code.

Rationale and Reference(s): Since 1985 all SWMUs have been investigated and all RCRA Facility Investigations (RFIs) have been approved by Texas Natural Resources Conservation Committee (TNRCC). All Corrective Actions as identified in Corrective Measures Studies (CMS) have been taken. Groundwater monitoring for natural attenuation under the TNRCC approved monitoring plan number CP-50250 is all that remains. The contaminants of concern in both groundwater and soils are primarily fuel products and chlorinated solvents. All sites have been well defined. See Enclosure C and Attachment 1 for references to all pertinent documentation.

Footnotes:

[1] "Contamination" and "contaminated" describes media containing contaminants (in any form, NAPL and/or dissolved, vapors, or solids, that are subject to RCRA) in concentrations in excess of appropriately protective risk-based "levels" (for the media, that identify risks within the acceptable risk range).

[2] Recent evidence (from the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, and others) suggest that unacceptable indoor air concentrations are more common in structures above groundwater with volatile contaminants than previously believed. This is a rapidly developing field and reviewers are encouraged to look to the latest guidance for the appropriate methods and scale of demonstration necessary to be reasonably certain that indoor air (in structures located above (and adjacent to) groundwater with volatile contaminants) does not present unacceptable risks.

3. Are there complete pathways between "contamination" and human receptors such that exposures can be reasonably expected under the current (land- and groundwater-use) conditions?

Summary Exposure Pathway Evaluation Table

Potential **Human Receptors** (Under Current Conditions)[3]

"Contaminated" Media	Residents	Workers	Day-Care	Construction	Trespassers	Recreation	Food'
Groundwater	NO	NO	NO	YES			NO
~~Air (indoors)~~							
Soil (surface, e.g., <2 ft)	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
~~Surface Water~~							
~~Sediment~~							
Soil (subsurface e.g., @2 ft)				YES			
~~Air (outdoors)~~							

Instructions for Summary Exposure Pathway Evaluation Table:

1. Strike-out specific Media including Human Receptors' spaces for Media which are not "'contaminated") as identified in #2 above.

2. enter "yes" or "no" for potential "completeness" under each "Contaminated" Media -- Human Receptor combination (Pathway).

Note: In order to focus the evaluation to the most probable combinations some potential "Contaminated" Media - Human Receptor combinations (Pathways) do not have check spaces ("__ "). While these combinations may not be probable in most situations they may be possible in some settings and should be added as necessary.

X — If no (pathways are not complete for any contaminated media-receptor combination) skip to #6, and enter "YE" status code, after explaining and/or referencing condition(s) in-place, whether natural or man-made, preventing a complete exposure pathway from each contaminated medium (e.g., use optional Pathway Evaluation Work Sheet to analyze major pathways).

_____ If yes (pathways are complete for any "Contaminated" Media - Human Receptor Combination) - continue after providing supporting explanation.

_____ If unknown (for any "Contaminated" Media - Human Receptor combination) - skip to #6 and enter "IN" status code

Rationale and Reference(s): There are no direct or complete pathways from any of the contaminated media. The only possible pathway would occur while excavating during the construction of a new facility or utility line. The RCRA capped units are virtually off limits for future construction due to a mandatory design review process where the base environmental office must approve all construction and all proposed facility sitings. If construction were required on one of the sites the construction work plan would have to address the environmental hazards encountered. In addition Deed Restrictions have been entered with the County Clerk. See Enclosure C and Attachment 1 for references.

[3] Indirect Pathway/Receptor (e.g., vegetables, fruits, crops, meat and dairy products, fish, shellfish, etc.)

4. Can the **exposures** from any of the complete pathways identified in #3 be reasonably expected to be **"significant"** [4] (i.e., potentially "unacceptable" because exposures can be reasonably expected to be: 1) greater in magnitude (intensity, frequency and/or duration) than assumed in the derivation of the acceptable "levels" (used to identify the "contamination"); or 2) the combination of exposure magnitude (perhaps even though low) and contaminant concentrations (which may be substantially above the acceptable "levels") could result in greater than acceptable risks)?

   __X__ If no (exposures can not be reasonably expected to be significant (i.e., potentially "unacceptable") for any complete exposure pathway) - skip to #6 and enter "YE" status code after explaining and/or referencing documentation justifying why the exposures (from each of the complete pathways) to "contamination" (identified in #3) are not expected to be "significant."

   _____ If yes (exposures could be reasonably expected to be "significant" (i.e., potentially "unacceptable") for any complete exposure pathway) - continue after providing a description (of each potentially "unacceptable" exposure pathway) and explaining and/or referencing documentation justifying why the exposures (from each of the remaining complete pathways) to "contamination" (identified in #3) are not expected to be "significant."

   _____ If unknown (for any complete pathway) - skip to #6 and enter "IN" status code

Rationale and Reference(s): The only exposure potential would occur during excavation of construction site. Of the 14 remaining SWMUs on base targeted for ground water monitoring, only two sites are in areas where construction could reasonably be expected to occur. If construction did occur Health and Safety Plans addressing the contamination risk would have to be developed. See Enclosure C and Attachment 1 for references.

[4] If there is any question on whether the identified exposures are "significant" (i.e., potentially "'unacceptable") consult a human health Risk Assessment specialist with appropriate education, training and experience.

5. Can the "significant" **exposures** (identified in #4) be shown to be within **acceptable** limits?

N/A If yes (all "significant" exposures have been shown to be within acceptable limits) continue and enter "YE" after summarizing and referencing documentation justifying why all "significant" exposures to "contamination" are within acceptable limits (e.g., a site-specific Human Health Risk Assessment).

_____ If no (there are current exposures that can be reasonably expected to be "unacceptable") continue and enter "NO" status code after providing a description of each potentially "unacceptable" exposure.

_____ If unknown (for any potentially "unacceptable" exposure) - continue and enter "IN" status code

Rationale and Reference(s): _____

6. Check the appropriate RCRIS status codes for the Current Human Exposures Under Control El event code (CA725), and obtain Supervisor (or appropriate Manager) signature and date on the El determination below (and attach appropriate supporting documentation as well as a map of the facility):

__YE__ YE - Yes, "Current Human Exposures Under Control" has been verified. Based on a review of the information contained in this EI Determination, "Current Human Exposures", are expected to be "Under Control" at the __Dyess AFB__ facility, EPA ID # __TX 357 192 4643__, located at __Abilene Texas__ under current and reasonably expected conditions. This determination will be re-evaluated when the Agency/State becomes aware of significant changes at the facility.

_____ NO - "Current Human Exposures" are NOT "Under Control."

_____ IN - More information is needed to make a determination.

Completed by (signature) _____ Date 9/11/99
(print) John Ekhoff
(title) IRP Program Manager

Supervisor (signature) _____ Date 11-9-99
(print) David Scruggs
(title) CEVC Section Chief
(EPA Region or State) Region VI – Texas

Locations where References may be found:

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Contact telephone and e-mail numbers

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FINAL NOTE: THE HUMAN EXPOSURES EI IS A QUALITATIVE SCREENING OF EXPOSURES AND THE DETERMINATIONS WITHIN THIS DOCUNIENT SHOULD NOT BE USED AS THE SOLE BASIS FOR RESTRICTING THE SCOPE OF MORE DETAILED (E.G., SITE-SPECIFIC) ASSESSNIENTS OF RISK.