

**Information Sheet #3
Formerly Used Defense Site Program
Former Laredo Air Force Base
Webb County, Texas**

**Potentially Responsible Party Process
February 1997**

SITE HISTORY

Under the Department of Defense Formerly Used Defense Site Program, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for identifying areas once used by the Department of Defense and for making sure that those areas meet environmentally standards. As part of this program, the Corps is authorized to determine all uses of the area and all parties who might be responsible for cleanup. The U.S. Air Force used the former Laredo Air Force Base from 1942 to 1974, then deeded the land and facilities to state and local governments, as well as to private parties. Some uses of the land and facilities after the property was deeded to the City of Laredo have resulted in releases of petroleum products and other substances into the soils and groundwater. As a result, users of the land and facilities have become responsible for making the area environmentally safe.

POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTY SEARCH

The purpose of the potentially responsible party process is to make sure all parties involved in creating environmental conditions at a formerly used Department of Defense site are responsible for investigation and cleanup. The search involves identifying all potentially responsible parties and providing information on site characterization and the potential for an agreement or settlement among all parties. The search for potentially responsible parties documents all evidence related to actions by parties that led to the environmental condition.

WHO IS A RESPONSIBLE PARTY?

By law and regulation, a potentially responsible party includes current property owners, past owners or operators at the time of disposal or transportation of hazardous material, the person who arranged for the disposal or treatment of hazardous materials, as well as the transporter of the hazardous materials who selected the site for disposal.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROACH

The Department of Defense approach is to ensure a reasonable level of settlement and that the remedy complies with Federal law and is protective of human health and the environment. This does not mean the approach is least costly. The overall goal is to negotiate with the other responsible parties a fair and equitable settlement that represents the Department of Defense's responsibility for contamination at the site under applicable laws.

The City of Laredo and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have entered into an interim cost sharing agreement on the Fire Protection Training Area and the Construction Landfill. The City of Laredo and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be negotiating an interim cost sharing agreement for the Refueling and Fuel Storage Area.

QUESTIONS? Contact Lisa Lawson, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, P.O. Box 61, Tulsa, OK 74121-0061; Phone: 918-669-7551.