



# Proposed Plan

## No Action at SWMU 56

United States Air Force Announces the Proposed Plan  
for No Action at SWMU 56  
Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility Washington

December 2019

### Introduction

This **Proposed Plan** presents the United States Air Force's (USAF) proposed response of "No Action" at Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 56, referred to hereafter as the "site," located at Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility Washington (JBA) in Camp Springs, Prince George's County, Maryland. The purpose of this **Proposed Plan** is to describe the site, provide a summary of the site history, and provide justification that No Action is appropriate for the site to ensure protection of human health and the environment. In addition, an explanation of how the public can participate in the decision-making process for the site is presented. To assist the reader, key technical or administrative terms are in **bold type**. A Glossary of these specialized terms is included at the end of this plan.

The USAF, the lead agency for cleanup activities at JBA, in consultation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 (USEPA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), issues this document as part of the public participation requirements of Section 117(a) of the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)** of 1980 and Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 300.430(f)(2). Title 40 CFR 300 is known as the **National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)**. This **Proposed Plan** describes SWMU 56 and summarizes detailed technical information from the **Remedial Investigation (RI) Report** and opportunities for the public to participate in the decision-making process for the site.

JBA was proposed for the **National Priorities List (NPL)** on July 28, 1998, and was formally placed on the NPL on May 10, 1999. The CERCLA Information System (CERCLIS) ID number for the base is MD0570024000. To remediate contaminated sites at JBA, the Department of Defense and USEPA entered into a Federal Facility Agreement (FFA), which became effective January 11, 2012. The FFA establishes a procedural framework for developing and implementing response actions as required by **CERCLA**. The agreement also is designed to facilitate cooperation and communication between the USAF and USEPA regarding the response actions.

This **Proposed Plan** is required by Section 117(a) of **CERCLA** and Section 300.430(f)(2) of the **NCP**. **CERCLA** and the **NCP** require public participation in the process of selecting a cleanup remedy. USAF and USEPA, in consultation with MDE and Prince George's County Health Department (PGCHD), will select a final cleanup plan for SWMU 56 after reviewing and considering all information submitted during the 30-day public comment period. The selected cleanup plan will be announced in a local newspaper notice and a document called the **Record of Decision (ROD)**.

### Mark Your Calendar for the Public Comment Period

#### Public Comment Period

December 13, 2019 to January 11, 2020

#### Submit Written Comments

Questions and comments are welcomed at the public meeting, if it is held, or in writing during the **public comment period**. New information provided during the **public comment period** could result in the selection of a response that differs from the preferred one included herein.

The USAF, in consultation with the USEPA, MDE, and PGCHD, will review written comments on this **Proposed Plan** that are submitted during the **public comment period**. To submit comments or obtain further information, please refer to the insert page.



#### Public Meeting

The public is encouraged to contact the USAF if they have an interest in attending a public meeting where the USAF will explain this **Proposed Plan** and respond to questions.

The USAF will issue additional public notices to announce the date, time, and location of any public meeting. Additional oral and written comments will also be accepted at a public meeting. Refer to page 5 for more information.

If interested in attending a SWMU 56 public meeting, please send a request to:

[JBAenvironmental@baywest.com](mailto:JBAenvironmental@baywest.com).



## Location of Administrative Record

This **Proposed Plan** is based on site-related documents contained in the **Administrative Record** file, which provides detailed information documenting the site background, investigation, and evaluation pertaining to SWMU 56. A copy of the **Administrative Record** is available as part of the site's **Information Repository** located at the Prince George's County Memorial Library, Oxon Hill Branch. The address and hours for the library are listed in the "Community Participation" section on page 4. A website is also available that provides information about environmental cleanup efforts at Joint Base Andrews. Steps to access this website and documents pertaining to SWMU 56 are provided in the "Community Participation" section on page 4.

This **Proposed Plan** summarizes information that can be found in greater detail in the **RI Report** and other documents in the **Administrative Record** for SWMU 56.

The USAF and USEPA will make a final decision on the remedy for the site, in consultation with MDE and PGCHD, after reviewing and considering all information submitted during the 30-day **public comment period** for this **Proposed Plan**. The proposed remedy may be modified, or another remedial alternative may be selected, based on new information or public comments received during the public comment period. The selected final remedial decision for the site will be documented in the **ROD** for the site.

## Site Background

### JBA Description and History

JBA encompasses approximately 4,360 acres, which include runways, airfields, industrial areas, and housing and recreational facilities. Residential housing is the second largest land use on JBA after the airfield. Most of the housing is located on the west side of JBA.

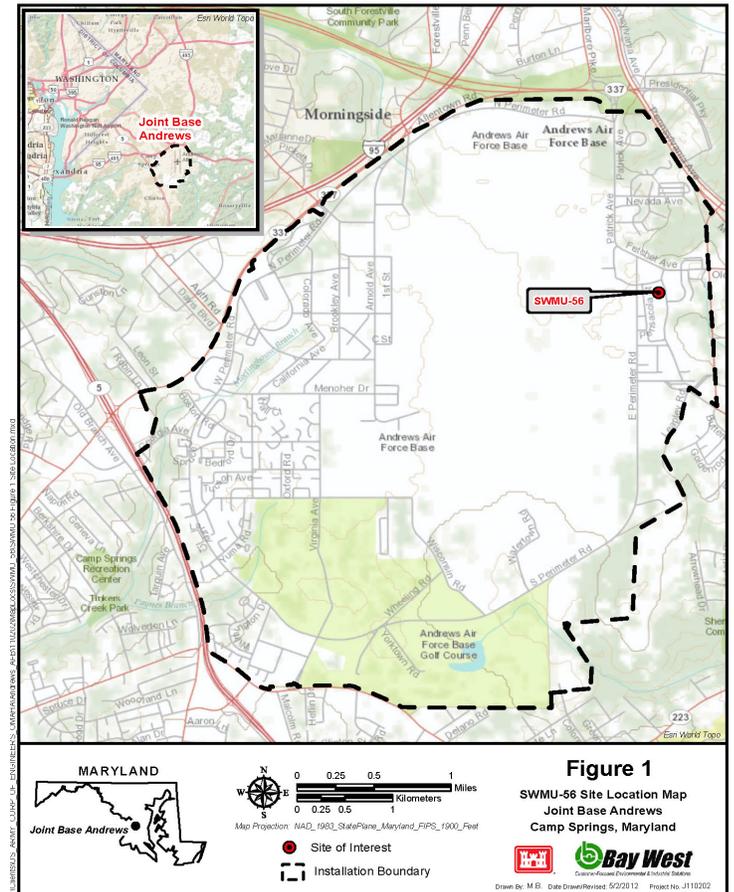
Outdoor recreation land use includes golf courses, ball fields, a tennis court, running tracks, and picnic areas. Most of the outdoor recreation facilities are concentrated west of the airfield in the southwest corner.

More than 12,000 active military personnel are stationed at JBA, which also employs more than 4,000 civilians. Currently, JBA is home to a variety of mission partners that include the following:

- 11th Wing – the JBA host wing
- Air Force District of Washington
- 89th Airlift Wing
- Air National Guard Readiness Center
- 113th Wing, District of Columbia Air National Guard
- 459th Air Refueling Wing
- Naval Air Facility
- 11th Medical Group

The history of JBA, formerly Andrews Air Force Base, began during the Civil War (1861-1865), when the Union Army used the area as an encampment. In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered a military airfield to be built

**Figure 1. SWMU 56 Site Location Map**



in the area. The airfield was named Camp Springs Army Air Field, and it became operational in 1943. In 1945, the name of the airfield was changed to Andrews Field in honor of Lt. Gen. Frank M. Andrews, a USAF founding father.

In 1947, the Army Air Forces were abolished, and the USAF was established as a separate and equal element of the United States Armed Forces. In 2009, Andrews Air Force Base and the Naval Air Facility Washington became a joint base known as Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility, or Joint Base Andrews. JBA is best known for its special air missions — the transportation of senior government and military leaders. In March 1962, Andrews officially became the "Home of Air Force One," the airplane for the President of the United States.

## SWMU 56 Description

SWMU 56 is an approximately 75-foot (ft)-by-150-ft asphalt-paved and fenced storage area near former Building 3459, which was used for storage beginning in 1943 and demolished in 1994. It was reported that SWMU 56 was used for storage of construction materials including lumber, paint, thinners, roofing material, asphalt, pipes and pipe fittings, used and new household appliances, non-polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) transformers, and miscellaneous drums. SWMU 56 is located adjacent to and within the groundwater contaminant plume associated with another contaminated site (ST-14).

SWMU 56 is bounded by Building 3440 on the north, Pennsylvania Avenue on the east, Building 3441 on the west, and Storage Yard fence line on the south.

## Site Contamination

No **contaminants of concern (COCs)** are identified at SWMU 56. However, the Phase II **RI** (discussed below) identified a potential **vapor intrusion** risk associated with chloroform and TCE in groundwater from site ST-14 (ST-14 is collocated with SWMU 56). Therefore, a **vapor intrusion** risk evaluation will be conducted to determine if the **vapor intrusion** risk needs to be addressed at ST-14. The USAF will submit a work plan with an implementation schedule to assess the current **vapor intrusion** risks at all buildings above and proximate to the ST-14 contaminant plume. The USAF will take action to address any unacceptable **vapor intrusion** risks and codify the work through an amendment to the ST-14 ROD. This ROD amendment will also address potential future **vapor intrusion** risks related to the ST-14 contaminant plume.

## Site Characteristics

The land surface at SWMU 56 is generally flat and entirely paved, with elevations ranging from 271.25 to 268.86 ft above mean sea level. SWMU 56 is located immediately south of a localized groundwater divide. Groundwater from the site flows east to the Charles Branch, approximately 1,000 ft from SWMU 56. Drinking water supply wells are not permitted on JBA, and SWMU 56 is located approximately 1,400 ft from the east installation boundary line (the closest boundary). Therefore, there are no drinking water supply wells within a minimum of 1,400 ft of the site. SWMU 56 is currently zoned as industrial and used as a storage yard for the JBA Civil Engineering Department. Future land use is designated as industrial and administrative.

## Previous Investigations

Environmental investigations have been conducted at the base since 1985 and are being conducted under the USAF Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). SWMU 56 was identified as a compliance restoration site through the

ERP, following the discovery of the persistently high pH in groundwater samples collected from monitoring well ST14-MW35 associated with nearby site ST-14. Remedial actions associated with ST-14 required in situ groundwater injections for COCs at ST-14 and were conducted between 2007 and 2010. These remedial actions were completed within and adjacent to SWMU 56 due to the proximity of the two sites. In 2010, it was determined that the persistent high pH observed at monitoring well ST14-MW35 was caused by grout infiltration during installation of the monitoring well, is localized to the monitoring well, and does not represent aquifer conditions (Bay West, 2013).

Year	Activity
2012	SWMU 56 Phase I Remedial Investigation
2016	SWMU 56 Phase II Remedial Investigation

To assess the nature and extent of contamination at SWMU 56, site-specific field investigations were conducted in December 2012 and April 2016 (**Figure 2**, page 6).

During the 2012 Phase I **RI** (Bay West, 2013), soil and groundwater samples were collected at SWMU 56. Two volatile organic compounds (VOCs), three polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon (PAHs), diesel range organics (DRO), and gasoline range organics (GRO), one herbicide, and seven metals were detected in groundwater samples collected from temporary monitoring wells at concentrations exceeding the USEPA tap water **Residential Regional Screening Levels (RSLs)** or the USEPA Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs).

During the 2012 Phase I **RI**, three metals (arsenic chromium, and barium) and one PAH (benzo[a]pyrene) were detected in soils above the soil **USEPA RSLs**.

The Phase I **RI** concluded that a Phase II **RI**, which would involve additional sampling, an ecological risk evaluation, and a human health risk assessment (HHRA), was warranted at SWMU 56. Therefore, in 2016, additional samples were collected from the site. Soil samples from seven additional borings were analyzed for barium to delineate concentrations reported during the 2012 field effort. The 2016 samples had barium concentrations ranging from 11 to 71 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg); the soil **RSL** for barium is 15,000 mg/kg. Following 2016 sampling it was determined that due to a unit conversion error in the 2012 barium results, barium concentrations did not exceed the **RSLs** as had been previously reported (Bay West, 2018).

The April 2016 investigation included the installation and sampling of six permanent construction monitoring wells. Nine metals (aluminum, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, iron, manganese, mercury, and thallium) and two PAHs (benzo[a]anthracene and benzo[b]fluoranthene) were detected in groundwater and exceeded the USEPA

tap water **RSLs** or the USEPA MCLs. The detection ranges for these compounds are as follows:

- Aluminum – seven detections ranging from 270 to 2400 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ );
- Arsenic – five detections ranging from 0.38 to 0.77  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ;
- Cadmium – four detections ranging from 0.38 to 1.1  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ;
- Chromium (total) – six detections ranging from 0.68 to 11  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ;
- Cobalt – seven detections ranging from 2.7 to 10  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ;
- Iron – seven detections ranging from 510 to 2,100  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ;
- Manganese – seven detections ranging from 120 to 340  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ;
- Mercury – two detections ranging from 0.027 to 0.068  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ;
- Thallium – four detections ranging from 0.071 to 0.18  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ;
- Benzo[a]anthracene – one detection at 0.016  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ; and
- Benzo[b]fluoranthene – one detection at 0.037  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .

During the 2016 investigation, chloroform and trichloroethene (TCE) were also detected in SWMU 56 groundwater samples in exceedance of their respective tap water **RSLs** and **vapor intrusion** screening levels. Chloroform concentrations ranged from 0.33 to 3.1  $\mu\text{g/L}$  and TCE concentrations ranged from 0.39 to 36  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . SWMU 56 is co-located with site ST-14, where chloroform and TCE are known contaminants. These contaminants are currently being remediated in accordance with the ST-14 **ROD** and are not being addressed as part of SWMU 56. However, further evaluation of **vapor intrusion** as it relates to chloroform and TCE is warranted and is planned to be conducted in support of ongoing ST-14 remediation.

Surface water was not assessed at SWMU 56 during the RI, as no surface water is present at the site.

An HHRA was performed as part of the 2016 Phase II **RI** to evaluate the potential human health risks and hazards posed by the concentration of soil contaminants at SWMU 56 that exceeded USEPA residential **RSLs**.

Concentrations of five metals and one PAH were detected above the residential **RSLs** and were therefore assessed in the HHRA to determine if they posed a hazard to human health. Arsenic and chromium presented the greatest risks to human health; however, the HHRA found that concentrations of these metals at SWMU 56 are below the basewide background concentrations, indicating that SWMU 56 soils have not been not impacted by previous activities.

The HHRA also examined nine metals and two PAHs detected in groundwater samples at concentrations

exceeding the USEPA tap water **RSLs**. Cobalt, chromium, and arsenic presented the greatest risks to human health; however, concentrations of these metals at SWMU 56 were either less than the basewide background concentrations or were less than the USEPA MCLs for drinking water, indicating that SWMU 56 groundwater has not been impacted by previous activity.

Analysis of the data gathered during the 2016 Phase II **RI** indicated that constituents detected in soil and groundwater at SWMU 56 do not present unacceptable risks to human health; therefore, no **COCs** were proposed based on a residential exposure scenario.

An ecological risk evaluation was also conducted at SWMU 56. Because SWMU 56 is currently completely paved with asphalt, there is no ecological habitat present and no possible exposure to soils. Therefore, no complete transport and/or exposure pathways for ecological receptors exist at the site and no further ecological risk assessment was warranted.

## Principal Threats

There are no **principal threats** in soil and groundwater at SWMU 56, as analysis of the data gathered during the **RI** indicates that constituents detected in the soil and groundwater do not present unacceptable risks to human health and/or the environment. Although there are no **COCs** identified at SWMU 56, the Phase II **RI** identified a potential **vapor intrusion** risk associated with chloroform and TCE in groundwater from ST-14. Therefore, a **vapor intrusion** risk evaluation will be conducted to determine if the **vapor intrusion** risk needs to be addressed at ST-14.

## Scope and Role of Remedial Action

Given that no **COCs** are proposed at SWMU 56, No Action is recommended. To select No Action for SWMU 56, submittal of a **ROD** following this **Proposed Plan** is recommended. The No Action response will result in no further investigation or cleanup warranted at SWMU 56.

## Summary of Site Risks

There are no **COCs** for soil or groundwater; therefore, No Action is necessary to ensure protection of human health and the environment for SMWU 56.

## Community Participation

### Information Repository Address and Hours

The USAF makes information regarding the JBA cleanup of SWMU 56 available to the public by maintaining a copy of the **Administrative Record** as part of the site's

**Information Repository.** The **Information Repository** is located at:

Prince George's County Memorial Library  
Oxon Hill Branch  
6200 Oxon Hill Road  
Oxon Hill, Maryland

Library hours:

Monday – Wednesday – 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Thursday – Friday – 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday – 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Telephone: (301) 839-2400

### Website Access

This **Proposed Plan** and associated documents describing investigations at SWMU 56 are available at the Prince George's County Memorial Library and also online. To access these documents via the internet, please visit <https://cww.baywest.com/public/>.

### Public Notice

In addition, site information is made available to the public by publishing announcements in a local newspaper (*The Enquirer-Gazette*). JBA hosts a public website regarding environmental efforts at the base:

<http://www.jba.af.mil/About-Us/Environmental-Mission/>

The USAF encourages interested members of the community to use these resources to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the site and the **CERCLA** activities that have been conducted at JBA.

### Public Meeting

The USAF has not scheduled a public meeting for this **Proposed Plan** because of low public interest in this site as well as other JBA sites (i.e., Spill Site 26, Fire Training Area No. 4, SWMUs 75 and 76 – Former Water Towers, and Historic Base Chapel). No members of the public attended the **Proposed Plan** public meeting (July 13, 2015) for those four sites. However, the USAF encourages the public to contact the USAF if they are interested in attending a public meeting regarding this **Proposed Plan**.

The public may request a meeting for this **Proposed Plan** through the following email:

[JBAenvironmental@baywest.com](mailto:JBAenvironmental@baywest.com)

Should a public meeting be scheduled, the USAF will issue additional public notices in local newspapers to announce the date, time, and location of any public meeting for SWMU 56. Members of the project team will be in attendance to discuss details and respond to questions regarding the site. Additional oral and written comments will be accepted at a public meeting.

### Public Comment Period

The 30-day **public comment period** for this **Proposed Plan** begins on December 13, 2019, and ends at midnight Eastern Standard Time (EST) January 11, 2020. However, the comment period will be extended upon receipt of a timely request or a request to hold a public meeting. All comments received at the public meeting and during the **public comment period** will be summarized, and responses will be provided in the responsiveness summary section of the **ROD**.

### Written Comments

Written comments may be submitted up to midnight EST on January 11, 2020, via mail or email, and should be directed to:

11th Wing Public Affairs Office  
William A. Jones III Building  
1500 West Perimeter Road, Room 2330  
Joint Base Andrews, Maryland 20762  
(240) 612-4428

Public Comment Email Address:

[JBAenvironmental@baywest.com](mailto:JBAenvironmental@baywest.com)

If you have any questions about the public comment process, please contact the 11th Wing Public Affairs Office.

### The Next Step

The USAF, in consultation with USEPA, MDE, and PGCHD, will evaluate public comments on the preferred alternative of No Action for SWMU 56 for this **Proposed Plan** during the **public comment period**.

Based on new information or public comments, the USAF may modify its plan of No Action in this **Proposed Plan**. If there are significant changes to this **Proposed Plan** prior to finalization, it will be reissued for public comment.

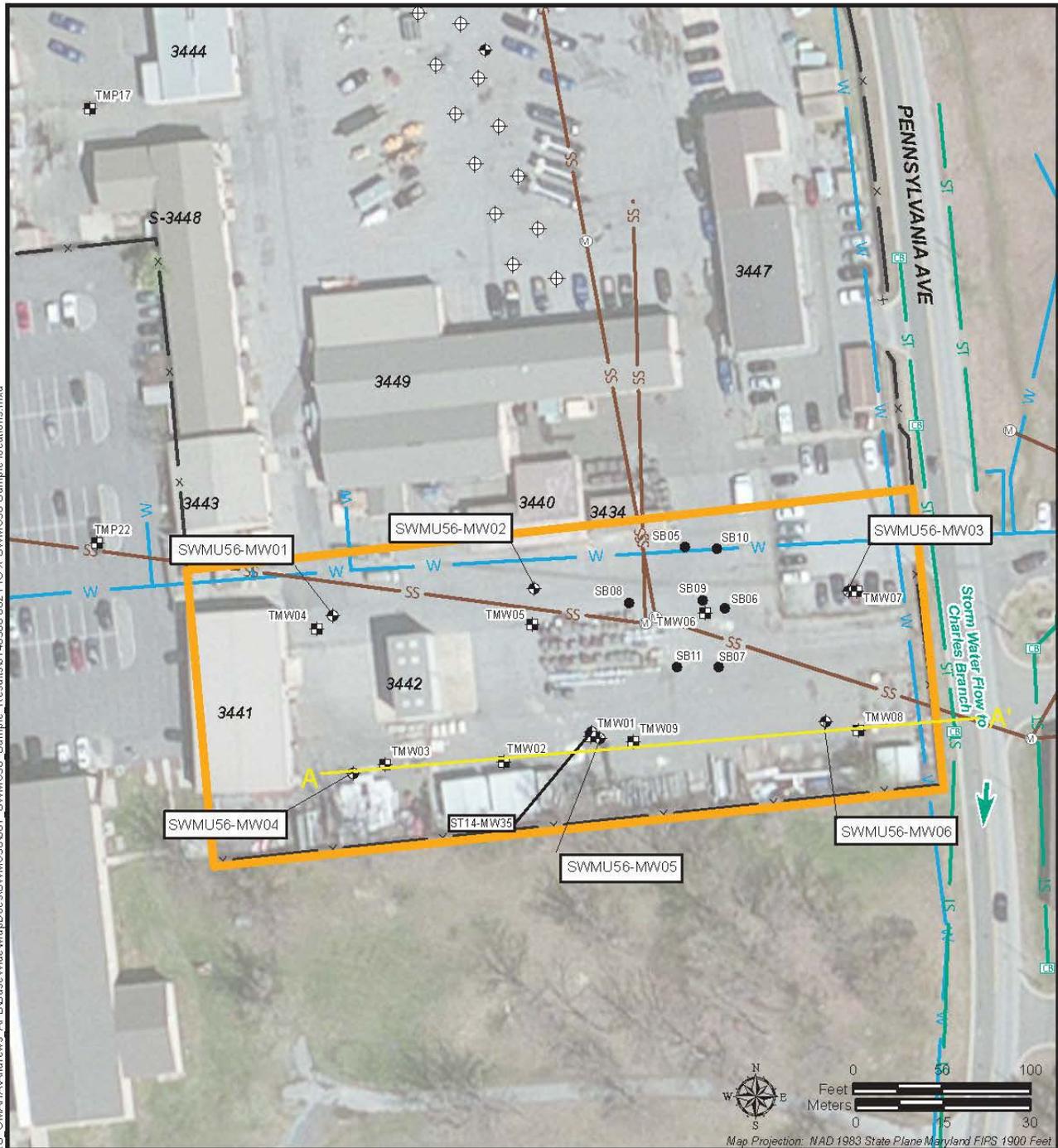
When the **ROD** is finalized, the USAF will announce the selected cleanup plan in a local newspaper advertisement, make the **ROD** available through the Public Affairs website, and place a copy of the **ROD** in the **Administrative Record**.

### References

Bay West, 2013. Final Phase I Remedial Investigation for SWMU 56, Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility Washington, Camp Springs, Maryland. October.

Bay West, 2018. Final Remedial Investigation at SWMU 56, Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility Washington, Camp Springs, Maryland. May.

Figure 2. SWMU 56 Site Map and RI Sample Locations



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- ⊠ Temporary Monitoring Well (2012)
- ⊕ Monitoring Well
- Soil Boring
- ⊕ Existing ST-14 Injection Well
- ▭ SWMU 56
- Stormsewer Line
- Wastewater Line
- Water Main
- Cross Section Line (See Figure 4-1)
- Ⓜ MANHOLE
- × Fence

**Figure 2**  
 SWMU 56 RI  
 Sample Locations  
 Joint Base Andrews  
 Camp Springs, Maryland

Date Drawn/Revised: 8/8/2016 Project No. J140588

## Glossary

**Administrative Record** – Record or file made available to the public that includes all information considered and relied on in selecting a remedy for a site.

**Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)** – Passed in 1980 and amended in 1986, CERCLA is commonly referred to as the Superfund Law. It provides for liability, compensation, cleanup, and emergency response in connection with the cleanup of inactive hazardous waste disposal sites that endanger public health and safety of the environment. CERCLA is codified at 42 USC Sections 9601 to 9675.

**Contaminant of Concern (COC)** – A site-related chemical that contributes to a significant cancer risk or non-cancer hazard. Presence of a COC warrants consideration of a response action to mitigate the risk by remediating the site.

**Information Repository** – A single reference source for information about environmental restoration activities at the installation. It shall, at a minimum, contain items made available to the public, including documentation that is in the Administrative Record and all public documents associated with the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) or the RAB's equivalent, if applicable.

**National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)** – The federal regulation that implements the CERCLA cleanup process.

**National Priorities List (NPL)** – The list of hazardous waste sites in the United States eligible for long-term remedial action (cleanup) financed under the federal Superfund program. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations outline a formal process for assessing hazardous waste sites and placing them on the NPL. The NPL is intended primarily to guide EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation.

**Principal Threat** – Principal threat wastes are those source materials considered to be highly toxic or highly mobile that generally cannot be reliably contained, or would present a significant risk to human health or the environment should exposure occur.

**Proposed Plan** – A document that presents the site history, summary of site investigations, and removal actions. It is the document in which the lead agency presents the selected action or preferred alternative to the public for public comment.

**Public Comment Period** – A limited time during which the public has the opportunity to comment on findings or proposed activities contained in draft reports or documents. A minimum 30-day comment period is held to allow community members to review the Administrative Record file and review and comment on the Proposed Plan.

**Record of Decision (ROD)** – An official public document that explains which cleanup alternative(s) will be implemented to remediate contamination at an NPL site or documents that no action is warranted. The ROD is based on information and technical analysis generated during the RI, FS, and consideration of public comments and community concerns. The ROD explains the remedy selection process and is issued by the USAF in consultation with the EPA, the state, and local regulatory agencies, following the public comment period.

**Remedial Investigation** – Serves as the mechanism for collecting data to characterize conditions, determine the nature of waste, assess risk to human health and the environment, and conduct treatability testing to evaluate the potential performance and cost of the treatment technologies that are being considered.

**USEPA Residential Regional Screening Level (RSL)** – The screening levels (SLs) presented on this site are developed using risk assessment guidance from the EPA Superfund program and can be used for Superfund sites. They are risk-based concentrations derived from standardized equations combining exposure information assumptions with EPA toxicity data. SLs are considered by the EPA to be protective for humans (including sensitive groups) over a lifetime; however, SLs are not always applicable to a particular site and do not address non-human health endpoints, such as ecological impacts.

**Vapor Intrusion** – Vapor intrusion occurs when there is a migration of vapor-forming chemicals from any subsurface source into an overlying building.



**Final**

**No Action Proposed Plan for SWMU 56  
Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility Washington, Camp Springs, Maryland  
Comment Sheet**

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**11<sup>th</sup> Wing Public Affairs Office  
William A. Jones III Building  
1500 West Perimeter Road, Room 2330  
Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762**