

FIRE TRAINING AREA NO.2

FT-03

Joint Base Andrews

April 2022

BACKGROUND

Fire Training Area Number 2 (FT-03) is located on the south-southwest portion of the airfield and was used as a fire training area from 1959 to 1972. During fire training, flammable liquid waste including solvents, paint, oils, and lubricants were released into a bermed area at FT-03 and ignited. Protein foams and chlorobromomethane were used to extinguish the fires. An area adjacent to the bermed area was used to store flammable liquid wastes. Some landfill activity appears to have occurred near this general area in the late 1940s. Unconfirmed reports suggested that a small area adjacent to the bermed areas was used to bury several hundred five-gallon cans of unleaded gasoline. Test pits and an extensive magnetic survey in this area did not locate any of the containers. The 2003 Remedial Investigation (RI) for FT-03 had limited detections of contamination. A golf course now covers FT-03.

CHALLENGES

The limited contamination at FT-03 did not justify a remedial action for this site; however, groundwater monitoring was required to ensure that site-related risk is properly managed. This was documented in the 2008 FT-02 Record of Decision (ROD).

In 2018, the base's Fire Fighting Foam Site Inspection (SI) was performed, which indicated that the FT-03 site media were contaminated with Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS).

PERFORMANCE-BASED APPROACH

After the ROD, a Remedial Action Work Plan and UFP-Quality Assurance Project Plan were submitted to regulators for review and a monitoring well network for long-term monitoring has been established. Municipal water is available for use at this site. If potable water is a necessary consideration for a residential scenario, a Focused Feasibility Study will be conducted for Land Use Controls and No Further Action alternatives, followed by a Record of Decision and long-term monitoring.

Groundwater monitoring for FT-03 has historically been combined contractually with investigative work at other sites within the Piscataway Creek watershed to streamline subsequent phases of the restoration process and reduce costs.



Figure: Designated FT-03 Area

In 2013, an Interim Remedial Action Completion Report was prepared to document remedy in place and demonstrate that all necessary remedial actions taken were expected to achieve remedial action objectives. This was signed along with the 2013 Risk Evaluation Report that documented that the concentrations of site-related constituents were no longer a risk to potential residential receptors. No further sampling was scheduled for the site and Response Complete was obtained.

Based on the results of the 2018 SI, this site has been reopened and will be addressed in the PFOS/PFOA RI to be commenced in 2022.

RISK DRIVERS

Contaminants: VOCs, SVOCs, and metals did not exceed groundwater maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). Two VOCs – chloroform and vinyl chloride, and one SVOC – benzo(a)pyrene, had a minor exceedance of Risk-Based Concentrations.

Impacted Media: Groundwater

Completed Exposure Pathways: None

Drainage: Piscataway Creek

Current Land Use/Surface Cover: Recreational

Reasonably Anticipated Land Use: Recreational

Relative Risk: Low