

west of George AFB in Adelanto and to the southeast in Victorville.

ATSDR did not identify any completed exposure pathways from George AFB to children at nearby schools or residential areas. The school grounds at George AFB are located more than 1,000 feet from the nearest IRP sites. There are no health hazards associated with soil on the school grounds or along the normal school route on Corey Boulevard (U.S. Air Force, 1994). In fact, most contamination present at George AFB is in groundwater or subsurface soil. Although some surface soil contamination was detected at levels above CVs for pica children, ATSDR believes it is highly unlikely that any children living or attending school at the base were exposed to these areas for long enough to experience chronic adverse health effects of soil exposure. Assuming that the base will continue to be used for industrial activities only and that children generally will be present only on school grounds, present and future exposure to soil should not present a public health hazard for children.

CONCLUSIONS

- *On the basis of available data, ATSDR concludes that exposure to contaminants in groundwater and soil at George AFB does not pose an apparent public health hazard.*
- *On-site and off-site groundwater do not represent a past, present, or future public health hazard. On-site groundwater has never been used as a source for drinking water at George AFB and no supply wells are expected to be installed there in the foreseeable future. Groundwater contamination from the OU 1 plume has migrated off site towards the Mojave River, but has not affected any municipal or private drinking water wells. Two supply wells in the path of the plume, at the VVWRA, have never been used to supply drinking water. The installed pump-and-treat system at OU 1 is expected to prevent contaminants from migrating to the Mojave River and regular groundwater sampling will*

continue to monitor the movement of the plume over time.

- *Soil at George AFB does not represent an apparent past public health hazard and does not represent a present or future public health hazard.* Soil contamination has been detected above ATSDR health-based comparison values in very few areas of George AFB. Access to most areas of contamination is limited and the contaminant levels detected would not pose a health hazard to either children or adults from short-term exposure. Due to the low levels of contamination, exposure to contaminated soil through future industrial reuse of the base is not expected to pose a public health hazard to adults working at the base.

- *Radiological contamination does not represent an apparent past public health hazard and does not represent a present or future public health hazard.* A small amount of radioactive material was discovered and removed from a portion of the SEDA. Radiation surveys and exploratory soil excavation indicate that this area and the two munitions storage areas were not used for disposal of significant quantities of radioactive waste. Although people using the SEDA for recreation in the past may have been exposed to small amounts of low-level radioactive material, such exposures would have been infrequent and of short duration and would not be expected to pose a health hazard. The SEDA has recently been fenced and its landfill cover has been rehabilitated. The George AFB property located south of Air Base Road, which includes the SEDA, has been transferred to the Federal Bureau of Prisons and will be the site of a prison that is currently under construction; the SEDA will remain fenced and will be within the fenceline of the prison.

- On the basis of information available on groundwater and surface soil contamination at George AFB, the previous and ongoing remediation efforts, and the past, present, and planned future uses of this land and these facilities, ATSDR concludes that the George

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DECEMBER 1, 1998**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry**



George Air Force Base

Final Release

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT

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Prepared by:

**Federal Facilities Assessment Branch
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