Five-Year Review
Environmental Restoration Program
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

March 2026

Introduction

Fort Richardson (EPA Identification Number AK6214522157) is located on the installation currently known as Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER). JBER is located in southcentral Alaska, adjacent to the cities of Anchorage and Eagle River. The Knik Arm of Cook Inlet borders the north and west sides of the installation; Chugach State Park lies to the south and southeast; the community of Eagle River lies along the eastern border; and the Municipality of Anchorage forms the southwest boundary. JBER, which comprises the former Elmendorf Air Force Base (JBER-E) and Fort Richardson (JBER-R), encompasses 73,272 acres – with elevations ranging from sea level along the Knik Arm shoreline to 3,800 feet above mean sea level in the Chugach Mountains.

Five-Year Review

The USAF, as the lead agency for environmental cleanup at JBER, announces the Five-Year Review of remedial actions at Environmental Restoration Program sites at JBER-Richardson where those actions are ongoing and not yet complete. This review is a detailed evaluation of environmental cleanup work being performed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The objective of the evaluation is to determine if selected remedies are functioning as intended and continue to remain protective of human health and the environment. If a remedy is found to be not protective, recommendations for additional activities are documented in the Five-Year Review. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation will provide oversight of this process.

This is the sixth Five-Year Review for JBER-Richardson; the most recent was completed in 2023. CERCLA's implementing regulations in the National Contingency Plan require that a review be conducted at least once every five years after a remedy is selected until hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants no longer remain on site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure.

The review will determine whether the selected remedies documented in records of decision (RODs) remain protective of human health and the environment. Five-Year Reviews are required because exposure assumptions, toxicity data, cleanup levels and remedial action objectives could have changed over time.

The community is encouraged to participate in the review process. Background information and RODs are available electronically in the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) Administrative Record at **https://ar.cce.af.mil/** with sites listed under the former installation name (Fort Richardson, AK). Community members may participate in the review process by providing information, comments, questions, or concerns relating to the JBER-R Installation Restoration Program and ongoing remedial activities on JBER-R to U.S. Army Corps of

Acronyms

AFCEC	Air Force Civil Engineer Center
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
JBER	Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson
LUC	land use control
MNA	monitored natural attenuation
NFA	no further action
OB/OD	open burn/open detonation
OU	operable unit
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
ROD	record of decision
SVOC	semi-volatile organic compound
TCE	trichloroethene
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USAF	U.S. Air Force
VOC	volatile organic compound

Engineers (USACE), Alaska District through May 15, 2026. Upon completion, results of this Five-Year Review will be summarized in a report that will be available for public review at https://www.jber.jb.mil/Services-Resources/Environmental/Restoration.aspx and in the AFCEC Administrative Record at https://ar.cce.af.mil/.

Steps in the Five-Year Review Process	
Document Review	A review of the records of decision (RODs) and updates to the RODs since the last Five-Year Review. This includes review of the cleanup objectives and operation, monitoring, and optimization records.
Site Inspection & Interviews	To document if land use or site conditions have changed in ways that impact the protectiveness of the remedy, each site will be inspected and interviews will be conducted with operations personnel, community members, and regulators.
Assessment of Remedy Protectiveness	A comparison of cleanup standards in the ROD to current regulatory standards, site conditions, and remedy performance to determine if the ROD cleanup standards and actions are protective of human health and the environment.
Final Report	The report presents the purpose of the review, applicable regulations, site chronology and background, remedial actions and basis for remedial actions, progress since the last Five-Year Review, technical assessment of remedy protectiveness, and recommendations for any required or suggested improvements or follow-up actions. If the Review findings show that a remedy is not protective, the report will state what steps are required to achieve protectiveness. The report also discusses when the next review is due and what areas will be included or excluded and why.

Summaries of JBER-Richardson Operable Units and Sites Included in this Five-Year Review

Operable Unit B

- Site: CG039 (Poleline Road Disposal Area)
- Contaminant: solvents in soil and groundwater
- Remedy: High-vacuum extraction, treatability studies, MNA and LUCs

Operable Unit C

- Site: XE023 (Open Burn/Open Detonation Pad)
- Contaminant: N/A
- Remedy: NFA under CERCLA

- Site: XU022 (Eagle River Flats)
- Contaminant: white phosphorous
- Remedy: Cleanup objectives in the ROD have been achieved. There are no ongoing remedial activities on XU022, and it is not included in the Five-Year Review.

Operable Unit E

- Site: DA089 (Armored Vehicle Maintenance Area)
- Contaminants: solvents in groundwater
- Remedy: MNA and LUCs

Site SS047

- Site: Nike Site Summit
- Contaminants: metals, VOCs, SVOCs, and petroleum in soil
- Remedy: Excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil

Site SS090

- Site: Barracks Construction dieldrin spill site
- Contaminants: dieldrin in soil
- Remedy: Maintain existing cap and LUCs

Definitions

Dieldrin - A toxic chlorinated pesticide previously used to control insects.

LUC - A land use control is an administrative or physical measure that limits human exposure by restricting activity, use, and/or access to properties with residual contamination.

MNA - Monitored natural attenuation is a technique used to test for or measure the breakdown of contaminants in soil and groundwater by natural physical, chemical, and biological processes.

NFA - No further action is a term used to indicate that previous action has remediated site contaminants such that there is no unacceptable risk remaining and no need for further action to address contaminants at the site.

OU - An Operable Unit is a group of sites that are managed together during the cleanup process.

PCBs - A group of toxic, persistent chemicals used in transformers and capacitors for insulating purposes and in gas pipeline systems as a lubricant.

ROD - Public document that explains which cleanup alternative has been selected and specifies the cleanup objectives.

TCE - A solvent that was routinely used to remove grease from equipment and parts.

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Administrative Record

AFCEC Administrative Record
https://ar.cce.af.mil/
(search Fort Richardson, AK)