



USACE, MOBILE DISTRICT

FIVE-YEAR REVIEW FOR 12 CERCLA SITES

Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

CLIENT PROFILE

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mobile District manages a variety of programs in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, and Tennessee as well as Central and South America. The District's mission includes supporting all branches of the military and other federal agencies such as U.S. EPA, and providing design and construction for civil works projects. Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB) is home to the 482nd Fighter Wing, a combat-ready unit capable of providing multipurpose fighter aircraft on short notice for worldwide deployment.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- This project was the third 5-year review of 12 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) sites completed for HARB. The objective of this project was to evaluate the implementation and performance of the CERCLA operable unit (OU) remedies at HARB to determine the short- and long-term ability to protect human health and the environment.

CHALLENGES

- The District indicated that the first and second 5-year reviews (completed by others) were not comprehensive, and previous information needed to be validated.
- Technical and regulatory conflicts among stakeholders inhibited completion of the project within schedule limitations.
- EPA review periods exceeded 200 days, delaying the project schedule.

THE MSE GROUP APPROACH

- A CERCLA 5-year review includes six main steps—administrative and schedule, community involvement and notification, document review, data review and analysis, site inspection and interviews, and protectiveness determination. A collaborative project approach with all stakeholders was implemented to obtain and verify institutional knowledge during the document and data review process, particularly since it had been identified that previous 5-year reviews were not comprehensive. Interviews with EPA and Florida Department of Environmental Protection were imperative in evaluating applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements to capture potential emerging contaminants that could impact existing protectiveness at each OU.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Identified an OU with conflicting information within the record of decision (ROD) that led to concurrence with stakeholders that an ROD amendment was required to maintain short- and long-term protectiveness.
- Developed a two-page summary table that included each OU and required elements of the CERCLA 5-year review for use by decision makers.
- Completed automated site inspections using tablets to reduce time spent in the field and office data compilation.
- Received high performance ratings for the project from installation personnel.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- CERCLA
- Risk management
- Investigation and remediation