



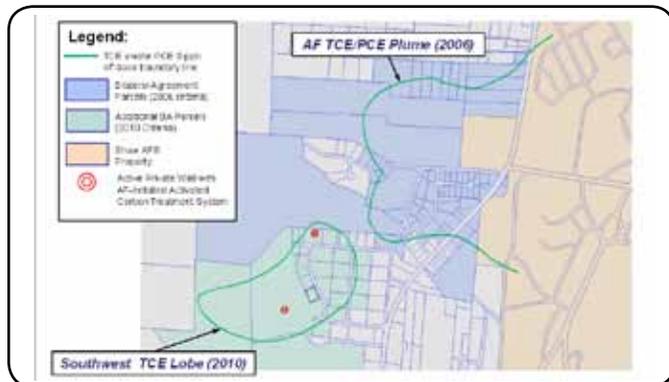
BILATERAL AGREEMENT/DEED NOTICE

Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

A bilateral agreement is simply an agreement between two parties. Here, the Air Force has asked neighboring landowners to voluntarily enter into bilateral agreements with the Air Force regarding public disclosure of groundwater contamination beneath 105 parcels of property located near the base.

A bilateral agreement is a legal document that states that the landowner is aware of the underlying groundwater contamination and is aware of the obligation to disclose this contamination when transferring the property. The bilateral agreement is a voluntary document. When signed by both parties, the agreement is filed with the property deed in county records. (The filing cost of the agreement is covered by the Air Force.) When the groundwater on the property has been cleaned up to safe drinking water levels, both parties can then enter into a subsequent agreement to cancel and remove it from the property deed.

The state of South Carolina requires that landowners who sell or transfer their property make any new owner aware of the property's condition, including any environmental restrictions. Property owners are not required to sign the bilateral agreements, but are encouraged to do so for the protection of themselves and others, and in order to meet any disclosure obligations.



This map depicts the off-base land parcels affected by the TCE/PCE plume and bilateral agreements qualification.)

WHY ARE THEY NEEDED?

These 105 parcels of land are impacted by a trichloroethylene and perchloroethylene groundwater plume located 150 feet underground. The plume is the result of past chemical disposal at the on-base dry cleaner and from aviation operations and maintenance from the 1950s to the 1970s.

Although certain disposal methods were standard practice around the United States at the time, and were not thought to generate a threat to the environment or public health, today we know that these past practices have led to some groundwater contamination on and around the base.

Since discovering this plume in 1989, your Air Force has invested millions of dollars to investigate the plume and install treatment systems to clean it. The Air Force is committed to ensuring that the environment is restored to clean standards and that human health is safeguarded during the cleanup process. Most private citizens living over the plume off base get their clean water from High Hills Rural Water Company. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control oversees the process.

In addition to its use of a pump-and-treat system and air stripper to clean the groundwater, the Air Force has taken steps to communicate with residents in the affected area. Each year, the Air Force mails a letter to residents who live above the plume to remind them about the contamination and provide a point of contact and phone number they can call if they have questions. Additionally, Shaw hosts semi-annual Restoration Advisory Board meetings, which provide local residents and interested citizens with a forum to exchange information about the progress of cleanup..

POINTS OF CONTACT

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov
South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control: www.scdhec.gov

