



# SHAW AIR FORCE BASE

## RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

### Environmental Newsletter

April 2025

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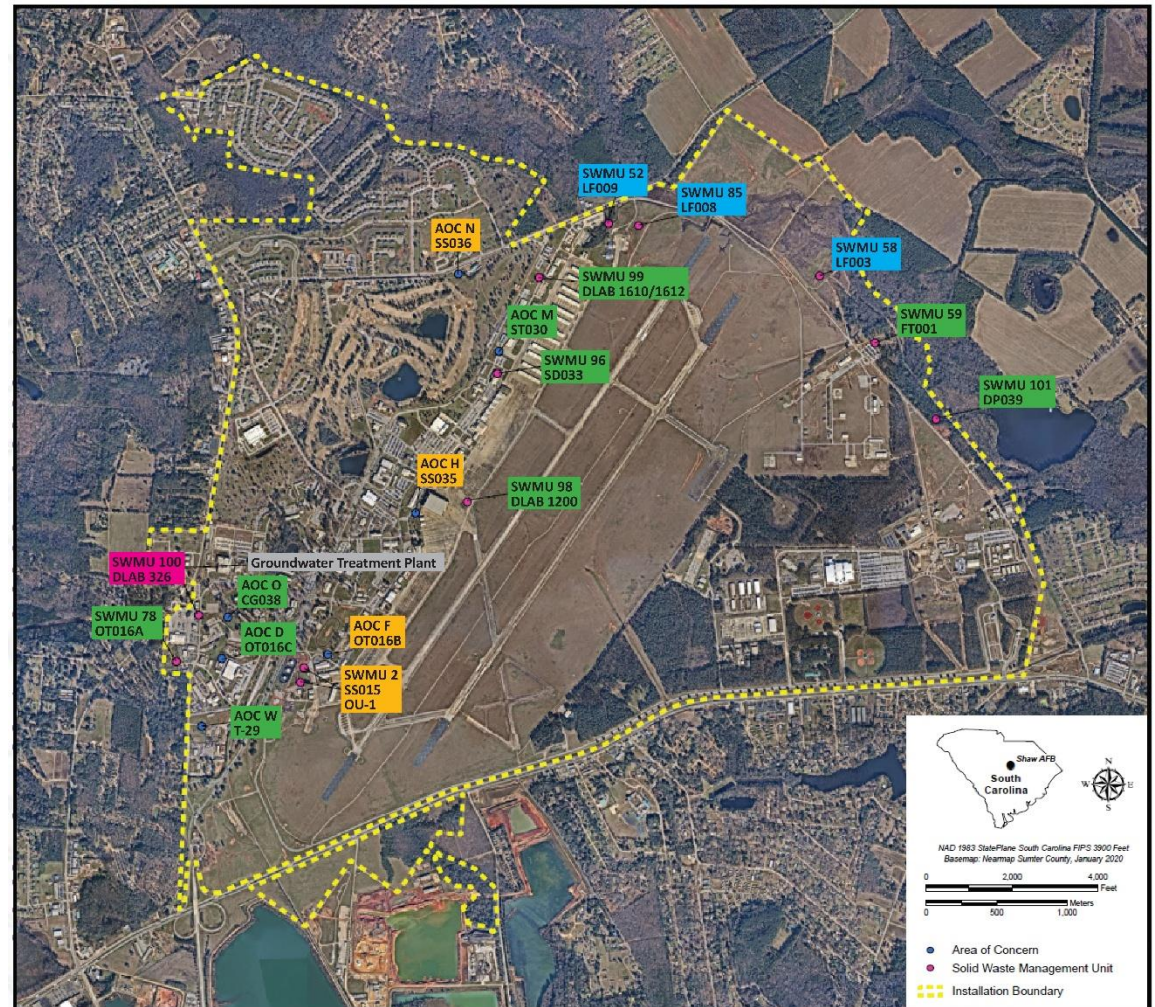
#### Environmental Cleanup Update

Shaw Air Force Base (AFB) continues its commitment to environmental restoration with significant progress in addressing contaminated sites. Out of 124 identified environmental sites, 106 have been successfully cleaned up and require no further action. The remaining 18 sites are actively being remediated or have land use controls in place to ensure public safety.

The base's environmental cleanup program dates back to 1983, with a comprehensive records search identifying 101 sites. These sites were initially documented under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B Permit issued by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), which has since transitioned to the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) as of July 2024.

#### Ongoing Cleanup and Monitoring Efforts

Shaw AFB's environmental remediation efforts are conducted under the RCRA Part B Permit (SC7 370 024 466), which is regularly updated to reflect changes in environmental conditions. The most recent permit modification occurred in September 2019. Cleanup and restoration activities continue at multiple sites: AOC D, AOC M, AOC O, AOC W, SWMU 52, SWMU 58, SWMU 59, SWMU 78, SWMU 85, SWMU 87, SWMU 96, SWMU 98, SWMU 99, SWMU 101. SWMU 100 recently received approval for "No Further Action" from SCDES.



#### Active Cleanup Sites





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#### Optimized Remediation Contract

In August 2020, Shaw AFB entered into an Optimized Remediation Contract (ORC) with the Bay West/Arcadis team to further advance cleanup efforts. This contract includes maintaining existing remedies, implementing new cleanup activities, and optimizing treatment systems to enhance the effectiveness of remediation at 15 Installation Restoration Program sites and 3 Defense Logistics Agency sites, both on and off base.

Key activities under this contract include:

- **Pump/Treat/Inject System:** Continued operation of the system designed to treat volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The system processes around 15 million gallons of groundwater per month, with treated water either re-injected or safely discharged.
- **Site Characterization:** Advanced site investigations at AOC F, AOC H, AOC N, and SWMU 2 to refine understanding of contamination levels and progress towards cleanup goals.
- **In Situ Remediation:** Continued monitoring of the BOS 100© “trap and treat” system, a technology designed to address contamination at the leading edge of the AOC F plume.

#### Community Engagement and Ongoing Monitoring

The environmental cleanup efforts at Shaw AFB also include off-base groundwater monitoring and the implementation of land use controls to ensure the safety of nearby residents. Community outreach remains a priority as part of the base’s commitment to transparency and collaboration with the public.



Remediation Efforts in Soil and Groundwater



Interior of the Pump/Treat/Inject System



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## Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Update

PFAS are chemicals used in a variety of products, including firefighting foam, and have been identified as potential environmental and health risks. Shaw AFB is actively taking steps to reduce PFAS exposure in the surrounding community.

### Addressing Drinking Water Contamination

Shaw AFB is committed to addressing the presence of PFAS in local drinking water. On April 26, 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized new National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR), setting enforceable standards for five specific PFAS chemicals. These standards apply to public drinking water systems nationwide and will require compliance within five years. The regulations set Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for chemicals like PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, GenX (HFPO-DA), and PFHxS, as well as a Hazard Index (HI) for mixtures of certain PFAS substances.

Shaw AFB has been working diligently since 2020 to address PFAS contamination, particularly in areas surrounding the base. We are prioritizing immediate action for private wells with PFAS concentrations exceeding three times the MCLs, ensuring those most impacted receive attention first. Over 1,120 properties in the area have been surveyed, with more than 250 drinking water wells tested.

For properties with elevated PFAS levels, Shaw AFB has already connected 30 properties to municipal water and provided temporary bottled water to others with levels exceeding 70 ppt for PFOA/PFOS. Moving forward, additional mitigation measures are planned, including Point-of-Use Treatment (POUT) filters and further connections to municipal water.



### PFAS Drinking Water Study Area

### Get Your Water Tested

If you live in the affected area and have not yet had your drinking water tested, you can still request a free sampling. Please contact Corey Anderson at [canderson@briceeng.com](mailto:canderson@briceeng.com) or call 803-464-0621 to arrange testing.

Shaw AFB remains dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community and will continue to take necessary actions to address PFAS contamination in alignment with EPA guidelines and federal cleanup processes.





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## Remediation Efforts: Groundwater Treatment and Ongoing Investigation

Since June 2021, Shaw Air Force Base has been actively investigating and addressing PFAS contamination in three former fire training areas. The investigation focuses on understanding the extent of PFAS-impacted soil and groundwater and developing solutions for effective remediation.

Shaw was one of the first Air Force bases to begin the PFAS Remedial Investigation (RI), which aims to determine the depth and spread of PFAS in soil, groundwater, and surface water. The Phase I RI Report was finalized in January 2025. Based on initial findings, further sampling and investigation will continue in the coming years to ensure thorough remediation and environmental protection.

As part of the Point Source Removal (PSR) efforts, an innovative Groundwater Treatment Plant is being constructed to treat PFAS-contaminated groundwater. This system extracts groundwater from the impacted areas, filters out PFAS using specialized media, and then reinjects the treated water back into the aquifer to help flush out remaining contaminants. The construction of this treatment plant is scheduled to be completed in May 2025.

Stay tuned for more updates as we work to mitigate the impact of PFAS and protect the local environment.

Additional information regarding the PFAS regulation can be found on EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas> and on ATSDR's website: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>.

More information about PFAS at Shaw AFB can be found on Shaw AFB's Environmental website: <https://www.shaw.af.mil/Public-Affairs/Community-Engagement/Environmental/>



Point Source Removal Groundwater Treatment Plant



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## **Open House and Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting**

**June 2, 2025**

**Cherryvale Elementary School: 1420 Furman Dr., Sumter, SC 29154**

**Open House: 5:00-7:00 pm; RAB meeting 7:00-8:00 pm**

Shaw AFB is hosting an open house to share information about the base's environmental cleanup activities. Attendees will have the opportunity to view detailed project information and speak directly with members of the Environmental Restoration Team. Immediately following the open house, a RAB meeting will be held. The RAB provides a forum for Shaw AFB, community representatives, and regulatory partners to discuss and exchange information on current and future environmental restoration efforts.

Email [LeighAnn@GalenDriscoll.com](mailto:LeighAnn@GalenDriscoll.com) or call (210) 758-3535 by 3:00 on May 29 if you have a disability and require a reasonable accommodation to fully participate in this meeting.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SHAW ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM AT:**

**[www.shaw.af.mil/Public-Affairs/Community-Engagement/Environmental/](http://www.shaw.af.mil/Public-Affairs/Community-Engagement/Environmental/)**

**Contact the 20<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office with any questions:**

**Phone:** Shaw AFB Public Affairs Office (803) 895-2019 **Email:** [20FWPublicAffairs@us.af.mil](mailto:20FWPublicAffairs@us.af.mil)