

Tucson International Airport Area (TIAA)

[EPA CERCLA Site](#)

Boundaries:

The [TIAA Site](#) (Site) is a [Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act](#) (CERCLA) Site in Tucson, Arizona. The site is on the [National Priorities List](#) (NPL), which is periodically updated by the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA). The TIAA Site contains seven major project areas including: [Air Force Plant 44](#) (AFP 44), [Tucson Airport Remediation Project](#) (TARP), [the Airport Property](#), the [Arizona Air National Guard](#) (AANG) 162nd facility, [Texas Instruments, Inc.](#) (formerly Burr-Brown Corporation), the former [West-Cap property](#), and [West Plume B](#). The Site is located in the southern portion of Tucson, south of Ajo Way, north of Hughes Access Road, west of Alvernon Way, and east of Interstate 19. The Tucson International Airport is located within the Site.

Site Status Update:

Remediation systems are in operation at TARP, AANG 162nd, Texas Instruments, and the Airport Property (Three Hangars). The Air Force recently replaced the original groundwater remediation system at AFP-44 with a new advanced [oxidation](#) treatment system that will begin operating in early summer 2009. For more detailed discussion of the status of each of the seven TIAA project areas, please refer to their individual web pages.

Community Involvement Activities:

To provide community members with an opportunity to learn about the cleanup process and to obtain local perspective for decisions concerning the cleanup, a [Unified Community Advisory Board](#) (UCAB) was formed in 1995. The UCAB meets the third Wednesday of January, April, July, and October. These meetings occur at 6:00 p.m. at the El Pueblo Community Center located at 101 W. Irvington Rd. in Tucson and are open to the public.

[Recent EPA fact sheets](#) include: *EPA Proposes Plan to Address Groundwater Contamination at West-Cap and West Plume B Project Areas* (June 2002) and *Tucson International Airport Area Superfund Site Update* (September 2008). In addition, the U.S. Air Force publishes a semi-annual progress report for activities at Air Force Plant 44.

Site History:

1950-1970: Industrial and defense related activities (electronics manufacturing, metal plating, aircraft maintenance, and weapons manufacturing) resulted in the release of hazardous substances into the soil and groundwater, leading to extensive contamination of soils and groundwater at and near the project areas.

1983: The Site was placed on the NPL on [September 8, 1983](#).

1988: The EPA issued a site-wide [Record of Decision](#) for [volatile organic compound](#) (VOC)-contaminated groundwater. Since that time, several additional decision documents have been issued by EPA for soil contamination. For more detailed discussion of the Site history of each of the seven TIAA project areas, please refer to their individual web pages.

Contaminants of Concern:

Contaminants of concern in groundwater include [trichloroethene](#) (TCE), [dichloroethene](#) (DCE), [chloroform](#) and [chromium](#). [Polychlorinated biphenyls](#) and metals contamination have also been found in some soils at the Site. During spring and summer 2002, 1,4-[dioxane](#) was discovered at the AFP-44, TARP and the Airport Property project areas. Contaminants of concern may change as new data become available.

Public Health Impact:

All municipal wells in the area that were contaminated with VOCs have been shut down. The municipal water supply in the area now comes from wells outside the Site and water produced from these wells meets all state and federal drinking water standards. Some privately owned domestic wells in the area have been impacted but have either been shut down or converted to irrigation wells. A few residents with domestic wells with low levels of TCE have chosen to continue using their wells. If you are drinking water from a private well within the boundaries of the Site, please contact the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Project Manager. Additionally, low levels [less than 2.0 parts per billion (ppb)] of 1,4-dioxane are being delivered to municipal water consumers who receive their water from the TARP plant. [A [maximum contaminant level](#) or [Aquifer Water Quality Standard](#) for 1,4-dioxane has not yet been developed. However, EPA has a drinking water advisory level of 3.0 ppb.] During late August and early September 2002, ADEQ sampled private wells for 1,4-dioxane. Four of these wells were impacted by low levels of 1,4-dioxane.

Areas with soil contamination at or very close to the surface have been excavated so that currently there are no known public health impacts resulting from contaminated soils.

Site Hydrogeology:

The Site is located within the Tucson Basin, a northwest trending [alluvial](#) valley covering an area of about 750 square miles in the Santa Cruz River drainage basin of southeastern Arizona. Site hydrogeology is complex and is detailed within reports and studies available at the TIAA Information Repository.

The Tucson Basin is a broad, down-faulted, sediment-filled depression bounded by mountain ranges composed of crystalline rock. Thousands of feet of alluvial sediment, weathered and eroded from the surrounding mountains, were deposited in the Tucson Basin. Major west-northwest trending drainages intersecting the Site include Airport Wash and Hughes Wash, both of which are tributaries of the ephemeral Santa Cruz River.

The regional [aquifer](#) (historically targeted for groundwater resource development for public water supply purposes) is composed of three major hydrostratigraphic units: the upper zone of the regional aquifer, the lower zone of the regional aquifer, and the undivided regional aquifer. A middle [aquitard](#) divides the regional aquifer into upper and lower zones under most of the Site. In the southern and central portions of the Site, groundwater contamination has been found mainly within the upper zone of the regional aquifer as the vertical extent of contamination has been limited by the presence of the middle aquitard.

Depth to groundwater in the regional aquifer varies from 80 to 240 feet below ground surface. The general groundwater flow direction is toward the north-northwest. For more detailed discussion of the Site hydrogeology of each of the seven TIAA project areas, please refer to their individual web pages.

Contacts:

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*In Arizona, but outside the Tucson area, call toll-free at (888) 271-9302.

**Call EPA's toll-free message line at (800) 231-3075.

Information Repository:

Interested parties can review select Site documents at the TCE Superfund Information Library located at 101 W. Irvington Road, within the [El Pueblo Branch Library](#) in Tucson, (520) 594-5250. The complete official Site file can be reviewed at the EPA Region IX, [Records Center](#), Mail Stop SFD-7C, 95 Hawthorne Street, Room 403, San Francisco, CA 94105, (415) 536-2000.

The ADEQ Site file is located in Phoenix at the ADEQ Central Office at 1110 W. Washington Street; however, select documents are also available in Tucson at the [Southern Regional Office](#) at 400 W. Congress, Suite 433. Files are available for review Monday through Friday from 8:30

a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To arrange for a time to review the Site file at the main ADEQ office, please call the ADEQ Records Management Center with 24-hour notice at (602) 771-4380 or (800) 234-5677 (Arizona toll-free). Please call (520) 628-6715 to arrange a file review appointment at the Southern Regional Office.