



News Release

US Army Corps
of Engineers
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For immediate release

Date: December 5, 2006

Corps places vapor intrusion study on hold pending clarification of new Army policy

SALINA, Kan. – Officials with the Kansas City District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have placed the vapor intrusion studies at the former Schilling Air Force Base on hold pending clarification of a new Army policy issued Nov 6.

The Army's interim policy on vapor intrusion states in part that if volatile chemicals, being addressed under the Formerly Used Defense Sites or FUDS program, are commingled with waste from other Potentially Responsible Parties, per FUDS policy, the Army would not pursue unilateral investigation. "Because commingled plumes exist at the former base, the new policy will mean a change to the Corps' unilateral vapor intrusion studies at the site," Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District commander Col. Michael Rossi said.

The District commander will ask for clarification of the policy. "This week I am signing a request for clarification on the new policy from the Army," said Col Rossi. "Our hope is the clarification will provide a way forward for the team."

"The new policy has no affect on the ongoing soil and groundwater contamination investigation or the pilot studies being conducted at the former air base," said Robyn Kiefer, Project Manager for the ongoing FUDS operation at the base.

Until Corps officials receive a policy clarification from the Army, or a bilateral investigation agreement is reached with local stakeholders, no further vapor intrusion investigation will take place.

The Corps understands the public's concern regarding the vapor intrusion investigation and its potential risk to the public "It is important to note that based on data collected to date, the long term risk to the public is within the range allowed as specified by environmental law," said Robyn Kiefer.

For more information, call the Kansas City District Public Affairs office at (816) 389-3486. <http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil>

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