

1.) Was groundwater tested for PFCs following TCE removal?

- The Air Force conducts well sampling to monitor the progress of contaminant removal, like TCE, from groundwater. The Air Force has sampled for PFOS/PFOA on a one-time basis within some of the areas where contaminants such as TCE are within a plume.
- If the question is related to water from the treatment plants post treatment, the water is sampled periodically prior to discharge for contaminants, including TCE. The Air Force has previously sampled for PFOS/PFOA at treatment plants—both post treatment and prior to discharge at treatment plants. The AF is working with the MDEQ surface water division on developing an appropriate plan for sampling discharge for PFOS/PFOA in the future.

2.) Please provide more info on discharging treated water from pump and treat systems: basin vs gallery vs well, etc.

Water is removed from the groundwater within the plume via wells called purge wells or sometimes referred to as extraction wells. In the case of Mission, Arrow and Benzene pump and treat plants; the water is pumped into the plant for treatment and then discharged through a pipe into the storm sewer system. At FT02 pump and treat, water is pumped through tanks with carbon and then discharged to the groundwater. At LF3031, the water is pumped through a series of ponds. For FT02, and LF3031 after treatment, the water is discharged to the groundwater through underground perforated piping (gallery).

3.) Please explain the mechanics of how the filtration system captures the water and how we know if contaminants are bypassing these systems?

The water is captured with groundwater purge wells, also called extraction wells. Purge wells are similar to residential water wells, except they have much larger pumps and screens that vary in length depending on the depth of water you need to capture. They are designed to capture groundwater throughout a cross-sectional area beneath the water table and pump it to the treatment plant. They are designed using engineering principles that account for site-specific properties. The Air Force conducts chemical monitoring in groundwater and groundwater level measurements to determine the effectiveness of capture.

4.) What's NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, ensures decision makers consider environmental factors in conjunction with other decision-making factors before proceeding with projects funded, performed or permitted by the federal government. (See attached NEPA Fact Sheet for more info on the Air Force and NEPA)

The Department of Defense determined NEPA does not apply to response actions that fully comply with CERCLA and the NCP. The Air Force is moving forward aggressively in accordance with the CERCLA process to identify, define and mitigate PFOS/PFOA contamination at the Former Wurtsmith Air Force Base.

5.) Explain the relationships of the government agencies involved in restoration.

**See attached "Who's Who" Factsheet for further clarification*

The Former Wurtsmith Air Force Base restoration team is comprised of three groups: BRAC program management is responsible for completing investigation and cleanup actions in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or CERCLA; regulatory and oversight agencies develop and enforce environmental laws to help protect public health and the environment and other stakeholder organizations provide input to protect their vested interest.

- **AFCEC:** The Air Force Civil Engineer Center's Base Realignment and Closure Program Management division manages the cleanup and disposal of BRAC property to reduce excess infrastructure and free up critical resources. AFCEC partners with communities, private industry

and federal and state entities to complete environmental responsibilities and promote development. The Wurtsmith project is led by a BRAC environmental coordinator who oversees the Installation Restoration Plan and ensures the project has the resources necessary to comply with applicable environmental regulations and achieve target milestones.

- **EPA:** The Environmental Protection Agency is authorized by Congress to create and enforce regulations to protect human health and the environment. CERCLA site identification, monitoring and response activities are coordinated through a state agency; for Wurtsmith that's the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.
- **MDEQ:** The MDEQ implements the Superfund Program in partnership with the U.S. EPA. MDEQ oversees site investigation and cleanup activities at Wurtsmith and ensures compliance with applicable environmental regulations.
- **MDHHS:** The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and District Health Department #2 oversee state and local health policy, management by investigating emerging environmental health threats, evaluating data and providing guidance.