



United States Air Force

Air Force Civil Engineer Center

October 2026

PFAS Cleanup at Air Force Plant 44

The Air Force Wants Your Input on a Proposed Removal Action at Site SS016P

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of widely used chemicals that resist heat, water, grease, and stains. Because they break down very slowly, PFAS can remain in the environment for a long time and may move into groundwater. PFAS were found in groundwater near Site SS016P, the Fire Engine Wash Outfall (FEWO), at Air Force Plant (AFP) 44 in Tucson, Arizona (see **Figure 1** on the following page).

The Air Force evaluated options for removing PFAS from the groundwater and is proposing an interim action to begin cleanup now while a permanent, long-term solution is developed. We want to hear from the community before a final decision is made.



Recommended Approach

The Air Force proposes adding equipment that removes PFAS from groundwater before the treated water is put back into the underground aquifer.

Why this matters:



Reduce PFAS in groundwater.



Protect people and the environment.



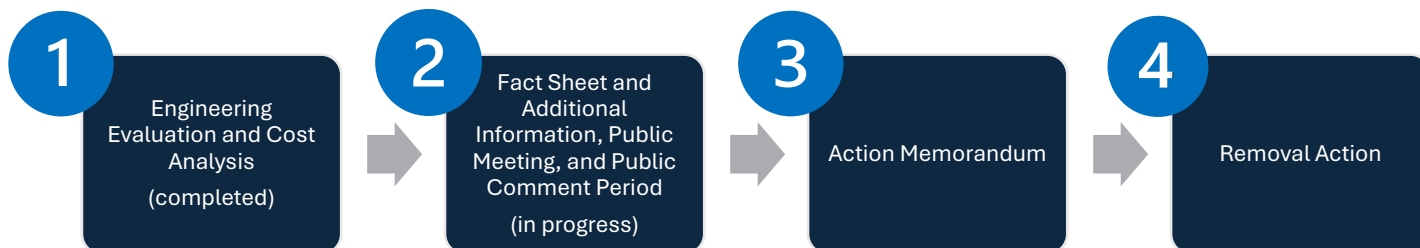
Use an existing treatment system when practical.



Support a long-term cleanup plan.

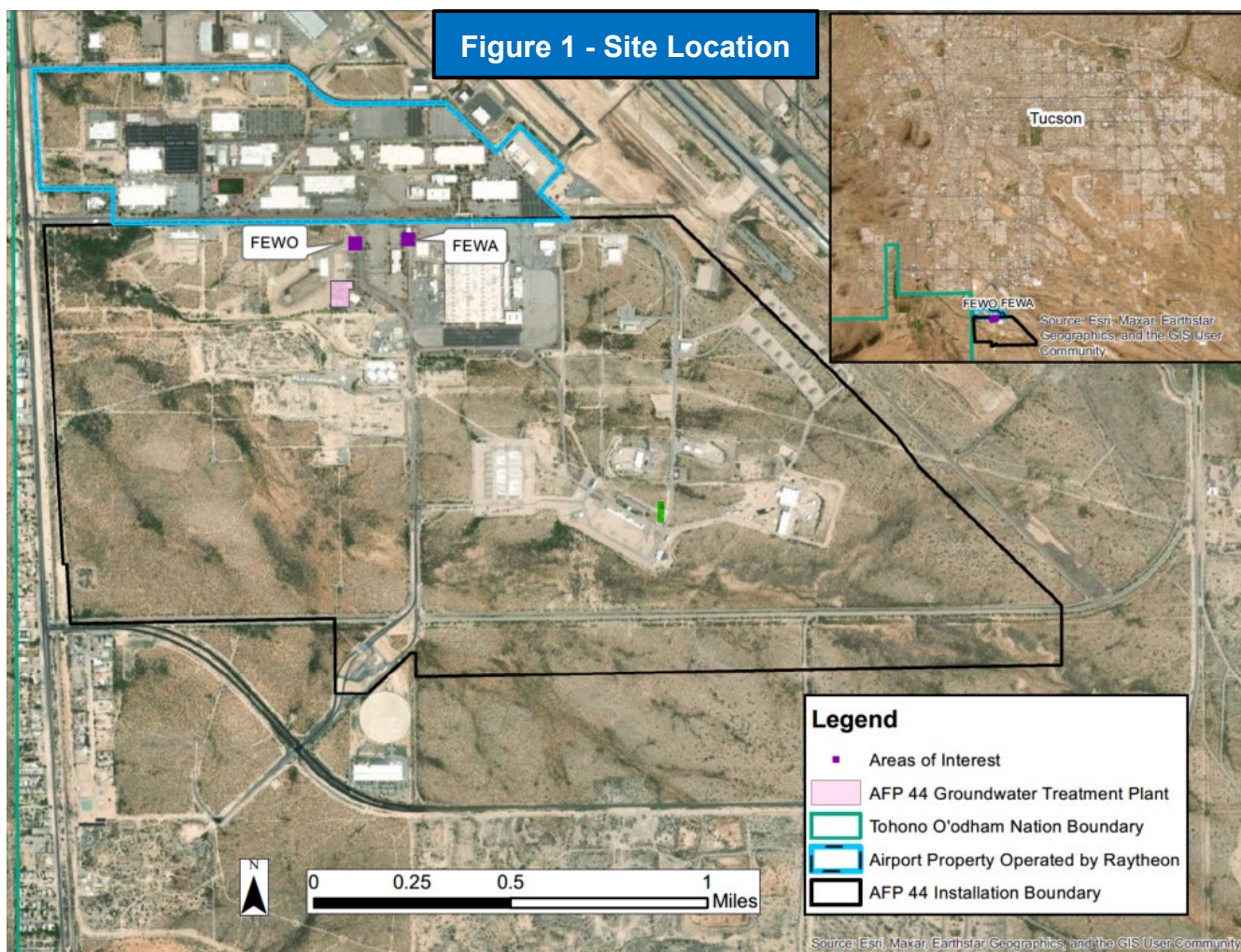
This action addresses groundwater contamination at AFP 44. The drinking water that Tucson Water provides is safe to drink.

Removal Action Next Steps



Public Comment Period: October 21 – November 20, 2026

Your ideas and questions help shape the cleanup plan for our community.



Site Background

In the past, fire trucks were washed after training exercises. Water containing firefighting foam drained to an area where PFAS later entered the soil and groundwater.

What the Air Force has done so far



Sampled groundwater and soil to understand where PFAS are located.



Completed a treatability study and added temporary PFAS treatment to an existing groundwater well in 2024.



Studied long-term removal action options.

How treatment would work



Groundwater pumped out



PFAS treatment



Existing treatment



Treated water stored



Water returned underground

Cleanup Options and Recommended Approach

The Air Force compared several cleanup options and looked at how well each options works, how practical it is to build and operate, and how much it would cost.

1 Effectiveness



How well does it reduce PFAS and protect people and the environment?

2 Practicality



Can it be built, operated, and maintained successfully?

3 Cost



What will it cost to build, operate, and maintain?



Recommended Approach

Add PFAS treatment to the existing groundwater treatment system before the treated water is returned underground.

Two treatment materials are being considered to remove PFAS from the water: Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) and Ion Exchange (IX).

Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)



PFAS attach to specially treated carbon as the water moves through the system.

Ion Exchange (IX)



PFAS attach to a specialized resin as the water moves through the system.

Why this approach is recommended



- ✓ Uses the existing groundwater treatment system.
- ✓ Can effectively remove PFAS.
- ✓ Helps protect people and the environment.
- ✓ Final treatment choice will be made during design.



Want the technical details?

See the companion information to this Fact Sheet, which includes additional maps, technical details, cost details and more.

How to Participate and Learn More



We Want to Hear from You

Please review the proposed cleanup plan for site SS016P and share your comments. Your input helps protect our community, people, and the environment.



Public Meeting



October 21, 2026



Public Meeting:
5:45 – 7:45PM



El Pueblo Senior Center
101 W Irvington Road
Tucson, Arizona

You can ask questions and share your comments at the meeting.

Public Comment Period



October 21 – November 20, 2026



You can send written comments by mail or email.



Send Your Comments To:

Roger McCready, AFCEC/CZRC
2145 Monahan Way, Bldg 28
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433

Telephone: (385) 634-9490

Email: roger.mccready.1@us.af.mil

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (AZDEQ)



This fact sheet and more information can be found at the AZDEQ website for AFP 44 at azdeq.gov/superfund/usaf-plant44



View documents in person:

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202 West Valencia Road
Tucson, AZ 85706
(520) 594 - 5390

Library Hours

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Sunday	Closed



Staff at the library can help you find documents in the administrative record.



For More Information

You can find more information on the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis and other documents that support the recommended alternative in the USAF Administrative Record Files. View documents online: <https://ar.cce.af.mil>