

# TOXIC CAGES

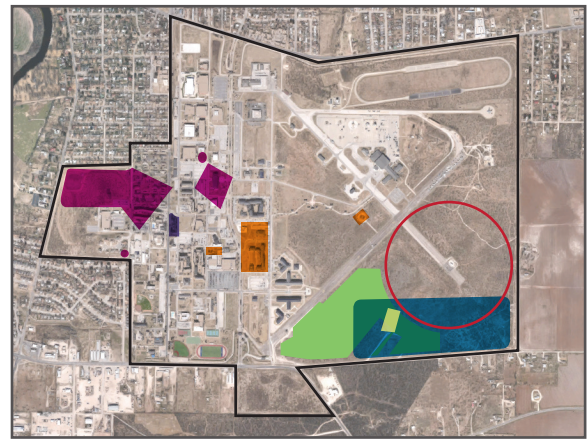
## Children's health risks from exposure to toxic contaminants at Goodfellow Air Force Base

A migrant detention center for unaccompanied children planned for Goodfellow Airforce Base in San Angelo, Texas, is slated to be placed on top of Superfund sites, which are polluted locations requiring a long-term clean up of hazardous materials. More specifically, under approved plans, the detention center will be built on top of a former firing range, and a former landfill, in an area filled with major health risks, particularly for children. According to an Earthjustice review of government documents, the area where the Trump administration said it plans to detain approximately 7,500 unaccompanied migrant children is contaminated with lead, arsenic, benzene, PFAS, and other chemicals associated with increased risks of cancer and permanent neurodevelopmental damage.

### THE REPORT SHOWS:

- Lead in the area has previously tested 27 times higher than the Environmental Protection Agency standard for lead in soil for play areas. Additional sampling is needed in all recreational areas.
- Lead in groundwater exceeds EPA's safety limit by over 20 percent.
- PFAS, a class of toxic chemicals used in firefighting foams, were detected at nine locations near the proposed site. PFAS exposure is associated with altered thyroid and immunological system function, altered timing of puberty onset, and increased risk of cancer
- A dozen chemicals associated with liver problems, increased risk of cancer and development delays in children were found in the nearby fuel storage facility where spills of chemicals happened.
- Chemical vapor intrusion in the area is a potential threat to children's health as vapors (or gases) from past chemical spills at the base can penetrate buildings through cracks in the foundation and openings for utility lines. These toxic gases can pollute indoor air and cause cancer and other illnesses.
- Hazardous waste site cleanups at the base are grossly incomplete, inadequate and outdated to meet health and safety objectives for this new site use.
- Before housing for children is built at the Air Force Base, outdated risk assessment methods and additional sampling must be completed. The analysis should include resident children living at the site.
- Contaminated soil exceeding dermal safety standards in play areas must be removed, groundwater must be tested for chemicals that cause toxic gases, hazardous waste sites must be thoroughly removed or covered, and the Air Force must demonstrate that the site and vicinity meet standards for residential housing construction for children and adults, staff and construction workers.

Superfund Sites Near Proposed Housing at Goodfellow AFB



- Proposed Detention Center Housing Area <sup>(a)</sup>
- Restricted Area <sup>(a)</sup>
- Firing Range <sup>(a)</sup> (lead-contaminated soil)
- Carbon Tetrachloride Spill <sup>(a, c)</sup> (high levels of several volatile organic chemicals (VOCs))
- Southeast Landfill <sup>(c)</sup> (various chemicals, including, organic chemicals, fuels, lead, arsenic, and other solid wastes in soil and groundwater)
- Fuel Storage & Spill Area <sup>(b)</sup> (arsenic and high levels of VOCs, including benzene, toluene, chlorobenzene, trichloroethene, 1,1 dichloroethene, methylene chloride, chloroform, and carbon tetrachloride in groundwater)
- Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) Release Area <sup>(d)</sup> (perfluorinated chemicals)
- Goodfellow Air Force Base Boundary

<sup>a</sup> Draft environmental Assessment (July 2018), Figs. 2-1, 3-2, & 3-3

<sup>b</sup> Final First Five-Year Review (July 2012), Fig. 1-2, Final Five-Year Review (Apr. 2017), Fig. 1-2

<sup>c</sup> Annual Inspection Report (May 2018), Fig. 2

<sup>d</sup> Draft Final Site Inspection Report, Amec Foster Wheeler (Sept. 2018), Figs. 2.3-1, 3.1-1, & 3.2-1

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