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# Base environmental cleanup on track, time

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George AFB's environmental cleanup is on track and on time, despite an environmental consulting firm's mishandling of samples. This was the main topic of Wednesday's meeting between base environmental officials and state and local environmental regulators.

Science Applications International Corporation, the contractor for phase two, the remedial investigation stage of George's Installation Restora-

tion Plan, voluntarily disclosed that testing of some samples was mishandled. SAIC disclosed Environmental Protection Agency protocol, which requires volatile organic samples be analyzed within 14 days after they are collected, was not followed.

Some of the samples were not tested for up to 70 days after the required time. This means that those test samples may no longer support the conclusions of our cleanup report, said Sandra Cuttino, base environmental planning and compliance chief.

Fortunately, a major portion of the areas affected by the questionable data was retested as part of phase four, the cleanup phase of the IRP. Those affected sites which weren't

retested will be resampled and tested for soil contaminants, added Ms. Cuttino.

While retesting will increase the cost, the most important fact is that no delays will affect

currently planned cleanups. Col. Dick Cole, assistant deputy commander for resource management, who chaired the meeting, stated that the base anticipates all required en-

vironmental remediation contracts will be completed prior to base closure with the exception of the TCE groundwater cleanup, which will take a minimum of 15 years.

**FINAL PAGE**

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**FINAL PAGE**



**GEORGE AFB  
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AR File Number 273