

**PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT AND SITE INSPECTION
REPORT**

**FOR THE
FORMER WEAPONS STORAGE AREA**

**PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE
PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

Contract No. F41622-02-D-9013

Delivery Order 0008

Prepared for

U.S. AIR FORCE INSTITUTE FOR OPERATIONAL HEALTH

AFIOH/SDRH

2350 Gillingham Drive

Brooks City-Base, TX 78235-5103

Prepared by

CABRERA SERVICES INC.

809 Main Street

East Hartford, Connecticut 06108

February 2004

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The work documented in this report was performed under the United States (U.S.) Air Force Installation Restoration Program (IRP). The Department of Defense (DoD) developed the IRP, a program within the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, to address sites impacted by known or suspected releases of hazardous substances. Within the U.S. Air Force, the Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA) is responsible for executing the environmental programs and real and personal property disposal for Air Force installations in the U.S. closed or realigned under the authorities of the Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1988 and the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990. AFRPA conducted this Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection (PA/SI) because recent information indicated that waste materials containing residual radioactive contamination generated during the maintenance of certain weapons systems in the late 1950s and early 1960s may have been buried within the former weapons storage area (WSA) at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB), New York.

The purpose of this PA/SI report is to document the results of the historical assessment and field activities as specified in the workplans (Cabrera, 2003a, 2003b, 2003c, and 2003d) approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) in September 2003. The purpose of the PA is to review existing information about the site and collect sufficient additional information to differentiate sites that pose little or no potential threat to human health and the environment from those that warrant additional investigation. The purpose of the SI is to evaluate the extent to which a site poses a threat to human health and the environment by collecting and analyzing environmental media samples.

The field activities were conducted between October 1 and November 2, 2003. Information was collected to support the following project objectives:

- Identify subsurface anomalies that could represent potential burial or disposal locations for the weapons maintenance waste materials using non-invasive techniques.
- Prioritize identified anomalies and make recommendations for additional investigations to confirm the presence of potential burial or disposal locations.
- Obtain the information necessary to conduct a preliminary risk evaluation (PRE) for radiological contaminants on building surfaces and surface soils.
- Perform confirmatory measurements to supplement existing data from previous surveys of the interiors of specific facilities within the WSA.

This PA/SI report contains the following sections:

Section 1 provides the introduction and purpose for the PA/SI.

Section 2 describes the site, operational history, and characteristics of the waste. A brief summary of previous surveys at the site are included along with the results of the PA.

Section 3 presents a summary of SI survey activities. The actual survey activities are compared to the Field Sampling Plan (FSP) and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) requirements. Deviations from the work plans are identified and potential impacts of these deviations discussed. The results of quality assurance (QA) activities are also discussed in this section.

Section 4 provides the results of the SI. Measurement results are presented along with interpretation of the data.

Section 5 presents a summary of the survey and provides conclusions on the potential threat to human health and the environment posed by the site. A list of subsurface anomalies and results of the PRE are included in this section.

Section 6 presents recommendations based on the results of the PA/SI.

Section 7 lists the references.