



# BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM PROJECT FACT SHEET

## Tonopah Airport Tonopah, Nye County

### SITE BACKGROUND

Between 1941 and 1945 a total of 10,433 acres was transferred from the Department of the Interior to the U.S. Army. Construction of the Tonopah Army Airfield (TAAF) began in the early 1940s and the base was in operation by 1942. Improvements to the site included runways, barracks, theaters, a stockade, a gymnasium, mess halls, a hospital, maintenance buildings, and hangars for up to 6,500 troops. In 1949 ownership of the land was transferred to Nye County. The Tonopah Airport now comprises 2,220 acres and is used primarily as a municipal airport.

In 1998 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) removed eleven concrete underground storage tanks (USTs), five metal USTs, and four concrete oil pits. In 2000 USACE conducted a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the TAAF to assess the need for further environmental action. Based on the PA, site investigation –primarily soil sample analysis– was conducted at 29 locations. Based on this investigation, eight sites were identified as requiring further remediation action.

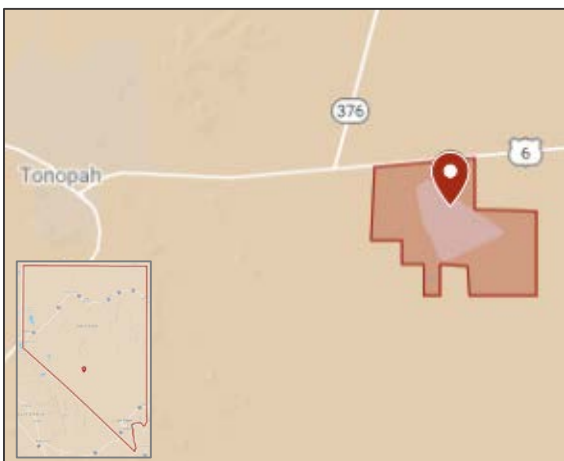
Nye County applied and was approved for site assessment funding from the Nevada Brownfields Program (NBP) to in order to support the goal of refurbishing airport facilities and improving employment opportunities in the County.

### FUNDING

<u>Activity</u>	<u>NBP Funding</u>	<u>Date</u>
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment	\$2,000	2002

### SITE LOCATION

- U.S. Highway 6, six miles east of Tonopah, Nye County
- APN:
- 1,703 acres



### SITE INVESTIGATIONS

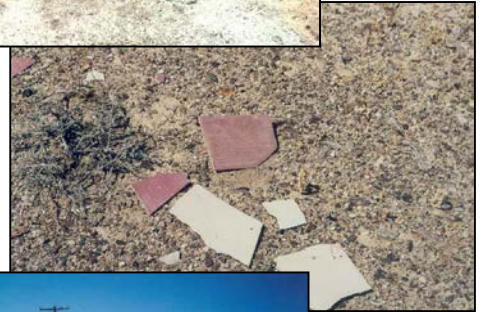
A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was performed to identify hazardous substances or petroleum products. The ESA identified several potential recognized environmental conditions (RECs):

- Additional subsurface investigation is warranted at four locations due to TPH concentrations for which NDEP requested further action but no further action was documented;
- Additional subsurface investigation is warranted at the former locations of nine USTs due to TPH concentrations in excess of state action levels;
- Additional investigation is warranted at 33 buildings to determine if USTs and piping was removed and/or soil quality was affected;
- Soil sampling is warranted at: 10 former paint, oil, and dope storage buildings, five former chemical warfare operations and material storage areas, 12 former maintenance and operations buildings, 10 former ordnance operations locations, and beneath the landfill-soil interface.
- Sampling for asbestos containing materials (ACM) is warranted at 12 former building sites.
- Site characterization is warranted at the former oil refinery where residential petroleum hydrocarbon contamination still remains in the subsurface.

## CLEAN-UP ACTIVITY

Site remediation was conducted at 12 locations per a Remedial Action Plan, and was conducted under a separate grant. The following removal actions were conducted:

- Administration, building 882: Removed and disposed of 12 cubic yards of soil; backfilled the excavation. Disposed of two pipes on building slab.
- Bath House/Lavatory, building 1149: Removed and disposed of 34 cubic yards of soil; backfilled the excavation.
- Bath House/Lavatory, building 1151: Removed and disposed of 12 cubic yards of soil; backfilled the excavation.
- Boiler House, building 1220: Removed and disposed of debris in sump. Plugged both pipes at the sump. Backfilled sump.
- Ammo Assembly Shop, building 1225: Removed and disposed of debris in sump. Plugged both pipes at the sump. Backfilled sump.
- Timber Magazine Igloo, building 1245: Disposed of 5-gallon bucket with contaminated soil.
- Ammo Clip Pile: Removed ammo clips and casings in an area 30' square and 4" deep.
- Gas Station, building 390: Disposed of two pipes.
- Recreation building with latrine, building 480: Disposed of 2 water pipes.
- Taxiway 4 Fuel Island: Disposed of piping.
- Hanger, building 1380: Removed and disposed of a UST vent pipe.
- Former landfill: Constructed a new landfill cover.



Above: Potentially hazardous materials and sites assessed at Tonopah Airport

## CURRENT STATUS

Nye County is currently pursuing options to increase industrial development opportunities at the site.

In 2014, a Phase II Subsurface Investigation and Asbestos and Lead-Based Paint Assessment for a 0.75 acre portion of the site was conducted under an EPA Brownfields grant. The goal of the assessment was to address the environmental issues in order for the site to safely continue its use as the operations center for the airport.

## RESOURCES

To learn more about the Nevada Brownfields Program, visit:

<https://ndep.nv.gov/environmental-cleanup/brownfields>



NEVADA DIVISION OF  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**