



RCRA Corrective Action

Cleanup + Productive Use

Economic Profile

England Airpark

Alexandria, Louisiana

BEFORE

Air Force base

AFTER



Airport



Mixed-Use
Community



Golf
Course



Higher
Education

CLEANUP OVERSEEN BY

EPA and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

England Air Force Base in Alexandria, Louisiana, opened in 1939 as an emergency airstrip during World War II. For over 50 years, the U.S. Air Force trained aircrews at the base. The base closed in 1992.

EPA and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) worked closely with the U.S. Air Force to clean up over 300 areas of concern including landfills, above- and below-ground storage tanks and a low-level radiological disposal site. The cleanup included groundwater extraction and treatment, restrictions on groundwater use, and continued monitoring.

Collaboration between the local community, the state of Louisiana's England Economic and Industrial Development District (EEIDD) and EPA allowed for a redevelopment plan to be designed that respected the site's long history and economic importance to Alexandria. Today, the site's mixed-use redevelopment plays an important role in the local community and economy, employing over 300 people and earning nearly \$76 million in revenue per year.



327

EMPLOYEES



\$76 million

ANNUAL SALES



\$14 million

ANNUAL WAGES





CONVERSION TO NEW USES KEPT THE CLOSURE OF ENGLAND AIR FORCE BASE FROM BEING THE ECONOMIC DEATHBLOW MANY IN ALEXANDRIA FEARED. THAT CONVERSION COULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT THE CLEANUP EFFORTS OF LDEQ, THE AIR FORCE, EEIDD AND EPA.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, Secretary, LDEQ

LDEQ, the Air Force, EEIDD and EPA worked together throughout the cleanup to ensure that the redevelopment of the former Air Force base would help offset the impact of the base's closure on the local economy. The site is now home to a mixed-use neighborhood called England Airpark Community with nearly 200 residences and a senior living retirement community, as well as a fire department, golf course, bowling lanes and pharmacy. In addition, an engineering consulting firm, several other businesses, and an educational facility for two universities have opened on the site.

Alexandria International Airport (AEX) occupies over 2,000 acres of the site. The airport serves three airlines and over 377,000 passengers a year. Although no longer a military base, AEX works with Fort Polk under a commercial contract serving as an unloading station. This arrangement resulted in over \$60 million invested in the airfield's facilities. Both England Airpark and AEX served as vital disaster relief staging and support during hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Gustav.

The cleanup and redevelopment of the former England Air Force Base are helping to revitalize the local community. With nearly 20 businesses, 200 residences and public services, England Airpark provides Alexandria with educational, recreational and employment opportunities.



OakWing Golf Club was an early part of the site's redevelopment. The 18-hole regulation-length course is part of Louisiana's Audubon Golf Trail, which includes courses across the state.



The Alexandria campus of Northwestern State University offers a variety of degrees including social work, nursing, business administration, criminal justice and radiological sciences.

