



EPA Helps Communities with Base Closings

The Department of Defense (DoD) recently released their list of proposed 2005 Base Realignments and Closings (BRAC). The report provides a list of facilities DoD is proposing to close or realign due to excess infrastructure and changing force needs. In some instances, the closure or realignment of a base will increase activities at another base. DoD selects bases for realignment and closure based on a set of established criteria, including the military value of the base.

EPA's Superfund Federal Facilities Response Program, comprised of FFRRO and regional federal facility programs, assists in the transfer of BRAC facilities to the local communities. Some of the 2005 facilities listed for realignment or closure are also Superfund sites listed on the National Priorities List (NPL). If a federal facility is listed on the NPL, the Federal Facilities Program oversees the cleanup activities conducted by DoD at the installation. If a facility is listed as final on the BRAC 2005 list and is listed on the NPL list, the program also has additional statutory requirements to guarantee that the transfer of the property and future use of the site will be protective of human health and the environment. Some of the program's responsibilities include helping to identify parcels of a site that are uncontaminated, integrating reuse priorities into the cleanup action, concurring on the transfer of property prior to cleanup completion, arranging a cleanup agreement with the new property owner if they will be conducting cleanup activities on behalf of DoD, and ensuring that the remedies at each site are working properly.

The 2005 BRAC list recommends closing 33 major bases (DoD defines "major" as a base with plant replacement value over \$100 million), eight of which are on the NPL. In total, DoD is suggesting the closure of ten NPL facilities and the realignment of 27 NPL facilities.

For additional information, contact Dianna Young, FFRRO, (703) 603-0045 or Tracey Seymour, FFRRO, (703) 603-8712.

\$75.9 Million in Brownfields Grants Awarded

On May 10, EPA announced that it will distribute \$75.9 million in brownfields grants to communities in 44 states. A total of 302 grants are being awarded to 218 applicants, including: 172 assessment grants, worth \$33.6 million, to assess sites and plan for cleanup; 106 cleanup grants, worth \$19.3 million, to perform cleanup; 13 revolving loan fund grants, worth \$20.8 million, to provide financial assistance for cleanup activities; and 11 job-training grants, worth \$2.2 million, to train local residents for jobs related to brownfields redevelopment.

Formed in 1995 and expanded by the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002, EPA's Brownfields Program has turned abandoned and contaminated sites into beneficial community spaces, including parks, recreational trails, and golf courses. The program aims not only to revitalize brownfields sites and make them available for community use, but also to increase local tax bases, foster job opportunities, and promote redevelopment as an alternative to using undeveloped land. To date, the program has provided over 1000 grants totaling more than \$381 million. EPA's brownfields efforts have spurred \$7 billion in public and private investments and the creation of more than 31,000 jobs.

Information on the grant recipients is available at:
http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/archive/pilot_arch.htm.

For additional information, contact Dale Kemery, Press Officer, OSWER/Homeland Security, (202) 564-4355.

National Notable Achievement Award Winners Honored

The 2005 National Notable Achievement Awards Ceremony was held in Arlington, Virginia on April 27, 2005. EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson, OSWER AA Tom Dunne, and over 200 EPA staff members, family, and friends were in attendance. The awards were first created in the late 1980s to acknowledge the efforts of on-scene coordinators, remedial project managers, and other Superfund personnel in the Regions. Recently, they have expanded to honor achievements in Brownfields, Emergency Management, Federal Facilities, Regional Science, RCRA Corrective Action, and Superfund Enforcement. New awards were added this year for Cross Program Revitalization, Environmental Justice, Homeland Security, and the Oil Program. A new LUST Compliance Award was also added by the Office of Underground Storage Tanks.

A summary of the ceremony and details about the award recipients are available online at: http://www.cluin.org/awards_2005/default.cfm. Photos of the event are available at: http://www.cluin.org/awards_2005/2005pictures.cfm. Details about the Superfund enforcement award winners appeared in the Spring 2005 issue of *CleanupNews*, available online at: <http://www.epa.gov/Compliance/resources/newsletters/cleanup/cleanup20.pdf>.

EPA Conveys Data about Naturally Occurring Asbestos to California Community

On May 6, 2005, scientists and personnel from the EPA's Pacific Southwest regional office spoke to the public in El Dorado Hills, California, about findings from asbestos testing performed in the area in October 2004. EPA revealed that amphibole asbestos was detected in nearly all of the over 450 samples taken from the air and the soil. Naturally occurring asbestos is known to exist in the El Dorado Hills soil.

EPA's testing aimed to determine asbestos exposure levels, particularly to children, during activities that generate dust and possibly release the mineral to the air. EPA chose to focus on children because their regular activities put them at greater risk of exposure to asbestos-containing dust, and because their longer life expectancy increases the likelihood of asbestos-related diseases developing past the latency period, which typically lasts decades. Testing was performed at three local schools, a community park, and a nature trail, where EPA contractors—wearing air samplers at inhalation points for both children and adults—simulated sports and other recreational activities. The results indicated that such activities generally exposed participants to significantly higher levels of asbestos than would be encountered outside of the activity areas. As a result of the asbestos assessment findings, EPA will form an independent panel of experts to examine the data, conduct similar testing in other areas in California, working with state and county agencies to address asbestos exposures, and continue communication efforts with the El Dorado Hills community.

Asbestos, a mineral created by normal geological processes in both rock and soil, is found in many parts of California, often near fault lines. Possible problems resulting from exposure to asbestos in the air include lung cancer; mesothelioma, a cancer of the chest cavity lining; and other non-cancer diseases. The risk of contracting such diseases through asbestos exposure is elevated by increased levels of airborne asbestos, more frequent exposure, longer periods of exposure, and longer periods of time elapsed since exposure.

For more information on the assessment findings, go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/toxic/noa/eldorado-asb-flyer-426-final.pdf>.

For additional information, contact Mark Merchant, Region 9 Office of Planning and Public Affairs, merchant.mark@epa.gov, or David Cooper, Region 9 Superfund Community Involvement Office, cooper.david@epa.gov.

Ten Sites Added to NPL; Seven Sites Proposed

On April 27, 2005, 10 sites were added to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) while another seven sites were proposed. The NPL, which has been in existence since 1983, identifies Superfund sites EPA has determined pose the greatest threat to human health and the environment.

The new NPL sites are: Safety Light Corporation, Bloomsburg, PA; Hegeler Zinc, Danville, IL; Sigmon's Septic Tank Service, Statesville, NC; Crown Vantage Landfill, Alexandria Township, NJ; Hopewell Precision Area, Hopewell Junction, NY; Copley Square Plaza, Copley, OH; Price Battery, Hamburg, PA; Brewer Gold Mine, Jefferson, SC; Smalley-Piper, Collierville, TN; and Commerce Street Plume, Williston, VT. The proposed NPL sites are: Standard Mine, Gunnison National Forest, CO; Peach Orchard Road, Augusta, GA; Garvey Elevator, Hastings, NE; Chlor-Alkali (Former), Berlin, NH;

Blue Ridge Plating Company, Arden, NC; Jackson Ceramix, Falls Creek, PA; and Pelican Bay, Azle, TX.

One of the new NPL sites, Price Battery in Hamburg, Pennsylvania, includes a former smelter and lead battery processing and producing facility that operated from the 1940s until 1971, as well as several nearby residences. According to citizen complaints, smoke stacks on the site had long released lead-contaminated ash created by melting used batteries. Lead-contaminated battery waste had also been used as fill throughout Hamburg. Over 200 residential properties in the area have significant lead contamination in soil, with the soils closest to the Price Battery facility showing the highest levels. EPA is conducting ongoing soil removal activities on residential properties.

The former Chlor-Alkali site in Berlin, New Hampshire is one of the seven proposed sites. Located on the bank of the Androscoggin River, the facility produced chlorine and other chemicals from the late 1800s until the 1960s. The chemicals were manufactured using electrolytic cells in “cell houses.” Chlorine production resulted in significant mercury, lead, and other contamination in ground water and soils on the property and in river sediments. The contamination poses a threat to seven rare bird species—including the bald eagle and peregrine falcon—that live or eat near the portion of the river close to the site. Also, the river is designated “catch-and-release” in the contaminated areas, but fishermen are at risk if they ignore the warning and eat fish from the area. Response activities to date include the demolition of on-site buildings and capping the property. More than 130 pounds of mercury and sediments containing mercury were excavated from the river between 1999 and 2004, however, mercury continues to migrate into the Androscoggin River.

Additional information about the new and proposed sites is available through the Superfund Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/current.htm>.

Phytoremediation Part of Final Remedy for Del Monte Superfund Site

EPA has approved a final remedy to address ground water and soil contamination at the Del Monte Corp. Superfund Site on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii. The remedy includes using Koa Haole plants to treat shallow ground water. Since 1998, shallow ground water in the source area has been extracted and delivered to the root zone of the lined phytoremediation treatment cells via subsurface irrigation. The data thus far show that this remedy is effective for removing contaminants.

In addition to continuing phytoremediation for the shallow ground water, contaminated soil will be cleaned through soil vapor extraction and the vapor filtered through a carbon filter to remove contaminants. The contaminated soil will be capped to help prevent the contaminants from seeping into deep ground water. Air stripping and carbon filters will be used to treat deep ground water in the source area. The downgradient plume will be monitored for three years to determine if monitored natural attenuation (MNA) is

effective at reducing contaminant concentrations. If MNA is not effective, then additional extraction wells will be added to insure the entire plume is captured and treated.

In 1977, Del Monte Fresh Produce (Hawaii), Inc., which has grown pineapples on the site since the 1940s, spilled 450 gallons of pesticides near the Kunia Well, a drinking water source for 700 people. The first tests of the well, conducted immediately after the spill, showed no signs of contamination, but a test in 1980 revealed ethylene dibromide (EDB) and 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP). Del Monte immediately removed the well as a drinking water source. The spill, along with pesticide storing and mixing that occurred in the source area, caused soil and ground water contamination in addition to the contamination of the well water. EPA added the site to the National Priorities List in December 1994.

For additional information, contact Dean Higuchi, Region 9 Press Officer, (808) 541-2710 or higuchi.dean@epa.gov, or Janet Rosati, Remedial Project Manager, rosati.janet@epa.gov.

EPA and Local Authorities Respond to Colorado Oil Spill

On May 4, EPA and other federal, state, and local authorities responded to an oil spill that originated from the Fremont Paving & Redi-Mix site southeast of Canon City, Colorado. Fremont Paving also participated in the response. As of May 9, EPA estimated that response teams had cleaned up and disposed of over 50,000 gallons of oil-water mix, approximately 4,000 gallons of which was recovered oil.

Fremont Paving, an asphalt-mixing company, reported that oil leaked from an oil tank's drain plug into a stormwater drainage and then into a retention pond on-site. From there the spill flowed at least 13 miles downstream, affecting nearby irrigation ditches, water supply ditches, and creek drainages along the Arkansas River between Canon City and Florence. The responses teams determined that the impact to the Arkansas River was minimal. Ditches were shut off following the spill, and alternative water sources were used by impacted public water systems. All ditches have now been reopened.

For additional information, contact Ted Linnert, Region 8 Public Information Officer, linnert.ted@epa.gov.

Firestone Site Removed from Superfund List

On April 21, 2005, EPA removed the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company Superfund Site in Salinas, California from the National Priorities List (NPL). The deletion indicates that the cleanup has been completed. The 30-day comment period ended on March 16; no comments were received.

From 1963 to 1980, Firestone released chlorinated solvents and other chemicals into the soil and ground water through tire manufacturing. The ground water contamination was first investigated by Firestone in March 1983, and EPA added the Firestone site to the NPL in 1987. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) served as the lead oversight agency for cleanup and remediation activities. The final remedy proposed by the DTSC was approved by EPA in 1989, and by 1992, ground water cleanup levels were met. Firestone monitored ground water until 1998 to ensure the remedy was effective. The site has since been redeveloped into an industrial and warehouse park called the Firestone Business Park.

For additional information, contact Patricia Bowlin, Remedial Project Manager, bowlin.patricia@epa.gov.

In The Courts

Consent Decree Proposed for Chicago Superfund Sites

Kerr-McGee Chemical has agreed to conduct cleanup activities and restore natural resources at two Superfund sites in West Chicago and DuPage County, Illinois. The consent decree, lodged in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois on April 20, addresses contamination at the Kress Creek/West Branch DuPage River site and the Sewage Treatment Plant site (river operable unit) and is valued at approximately \$74 million. Under the terms of the consent decree, Kerr-McGee will remove 77,000 cubic yards of soils and sediments contaminated with radioactive wastes from Kress Creek and the West Branch DuPage River and ship the soil to a licensed disposal facility. Since these cleanup activities will damage vegetation, riverbanks, and waterways, Kerr-McGee will be responsible for restoring these natural resources. In addition, Kerr-McGee will pay EPA \$6 million for past response costs and up to \$1.675 million for future EPA oversight. The company will also cover certain EPA future, non-oversight response costs and pay the State of Illinois and the Department of the Interior to oversee the natural resource restoration.

Kerr-McGee and its predecessors operated the Rare Earths Facility in West Chicago from 1932 to 1973. Radioactive mill tailings were generated during manufacturing processes at the site, and the tailings were blown onto other properties by the wind and distributed to the community for use as fill. The Kress Creek/West Branch DuPage River site and the Sewage Treatment Plant site are two of the Superfund sites that resulted from the spread of tailings from Rare Earths. Kerr-McGee has already spent \$115 million cleaning up the Reed-Keppler Park site, the West Chicago Sewage Treatment Plant site (upland operable unit), and the Residential Areas site.

The 30-day public comment period for the consent decree began May 12, 2005.

For additional information, contact Rebecca Frey, Remedial Project Manager, frey.rebecca@epa.gov, or Douglas Dixon, OSRE/RSD, dixon.douglas@epa.gov.

Tennessee Products Superfund Site Consent Decree Entered

On May 4, 2005, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Tennessee entered the consent decree between EPA and the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to the Tennessee Products Superfund site. The PRPs are MW Custom Papers, LLC; Reilly Industries, Inc.; Southern Wood Piedmont Company; and the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). The private PRPs will implement the selected remedy—removing roughly 81,500 cubic yards of contaminated sediments—and pay EPA approximately \$2.8 million for past costs. GSA, the federal PRP, will pay \$17.4 million to cash out its liability and reimburse EPA's past costs. The Region 4 team members who negotiated the consent decree were awarded the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation's 2005 National Notable Achievement Award for Enforcement Team of the Year for successfully negotiating this consent decree.

The Tennessee Products site spans 2.5 miles along Chattanooga Creek in South Chattanooga where coal tar constituents and other wastes have been dumped since the early 1900s. The site, which was added to the National Priorities List in 1995, is contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) that originated from a coke plant, a coal tar processing plant, a wood treating facility, and a chemical plant, among other industrial facilities. Each of the PRPs named in the consent decree was affiliated with one of these facilities. The Tennessee Products coke plant, for example, was operated by the U.S. government during World War II, during which time coke production at the plant doubled. EPA's site activities to-date have included fencing the site in 1993, conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study in 1994, and removing over 25,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment in 1998.

For additional information, contact Stacey Haire, EPA Region 4, (404) 562-9676 or Remedial Project Managers Nestor Young, (404) 562-8812, or Loften Carr, (404) 562-8804.

Tidbits

OSRE Issues Interim Protocol for Coordination of Bankruptcy Matters

On May 10, 2005, the Office of Site Remediation Enforcement's ("OSRE") Director Susan E. Bromm issued a memorandum that sets forth the Interim Protocol for Coordination of Bankruptcy Matters ("Protocol"). The Protocol memorializes the United States Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") current bankruptcy practice at Headquarters and in the Regions. The Protocol is an interim document and may be

revised as EPA gains additional experience and expertise. Bankruptcy matters arising under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (“CERCLA”) are the primary focus of the Protocol; however, OSRE also believes that its applicability may extend to other environmental statutes as well.

The Protocol focuses on how EPA handles bankruptcy notices and cases. With regard to notices, the Protocol sets forth that each Region will designate its Regional Office’s address as the address to receive notices. Currently, the practice has been for Headquarters to receive all notices and distribute them, except for those emanating from Delaware and the Southern District of New York, to the appropriate Regions. However, Rule 5003 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedures were amended to allow EPA to make this change. More importantly, the Protocol memorializes for the first time the procedures that have been followed for determining whether an environmental matter or issue of interest to EPA is involved in the notice.

With regard to cases, the Protocol sets forth how EPA will handle cases involving only one Region, as well as cases involving more than one Region, *i.e.*, multi-regional cases. If a case involves only one Region, the Protocol specifies that the affected Region will work with the Department of Justice to handle the matter. Headquarters will generally not be involved. For multi-regional cases, coordination among the Regions, Department of Justice, and Headquarters is required. Headquarters remains the presumptive lead in handling the case; however, the Protocol articulates several instances where a Region may be better suited to handle the case.

For additional information, please contact Theodore J. Kim , Office of Site Remediation Enforcement, kim.theodore@epa.gov

Community Involvement Conference Registration Opens

Registration for EPA’s 2005 Community Involvement and Training Conference held July 12 -15 in Buffalo, NY is now open at <http://www.epancic.org/2005>! This annual conference is a unique opportunity for a wide array of stakeholders to come together to share how EPA and its partners are involving communities in the protection of our air, water and land. We are looking forward to an excellent array of learning and training opportunities at the conference, and the hospitality of EPA Region 2.

Registration to attend the conference, field trips, optional training, keynote lunch, and group social activity are required. The draft agenda, hotel, poster session, and registration information are available at the conference Web site at: <http://www.epancic.org/2005/>. Please contact Lisa Gebler, Conference Coordinator, at (301) 589-5318 with any questions. We are very excited about the conference and hope to see you there!

Calendar

June 6-9, 2005

In-situ and On-site Bioremediation Symposium

<http://www.battelle.org/environment/er/conferences/biosymp/default.stm>

Baltimore, MD

June 21-24, 2005

A&WMA's 98th Annual Conference and Convention

<http://www.awma.org/ACE2005/>

Minneapolis, Minnesota

July 12-15, 2005

2005 Community Involvement Conference and Training

<http://www.epancic.org/2005/overview.cfm>

Buffalo, NY

July 25-29, 2005

The 21st Annual National Environmental Monitoring Conference

<http://nemc.us/>

Washington, DC

August 7-10, 2005

College & University Hazardous Waste Conference

<http://www.cuhwc.org/>

Portland, Oregon

Glossary

BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
DBCP	1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane
DoD	Department of Defense
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
EDB	Ethylene dibromide
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FFRRO	Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office

JIC	Joint Information Center
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
MNA	Monitored natural attenuation
NPL	National Priorities List
OECA	Office of Enforcement Compliance and Assurance
OSRE	Office of Site Remediation Enforcement
OSWER	Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
PAHs	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
PRP	Potentially responsible party
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

Subscription Information

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To receive *CleanupNews* by email, join the listserv at
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/listserv/cleanup.html>.

We have developed an electronic supplement to the *CleanupNews* print edition called *CleanupNews II*. The print issue will still be available four times a year, and the

newsletter will be delivered electronically nine times a year (four issues consisting of the print edition text and five issues consisting of supplemental news).