SUPERFUND Fact Sheet

REYNOLDS METALS COMPANY

Troutdale, Oregon

EPA U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY October 2001

This fact sheet provides information about cleaning up contamination at the Reynolds Metals Company Superfund site. The site is on the Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List , a list of the most contaminated sites in the nation.

Cleanup Action Taking Place This Fall

Over the past several years, Reynolds Metals Company (RMC) has removed contamination from problem spots at their Troutdale facility (see below). One additional cleanup action will take place in October, and a second action is scheduled for next spring. This fall, hazardous waste will be removed from the Company Lake area of the RMC site. The scrap yard is targeted for clean up next spring.

EARLY CLEANUP ACTIONS

During the past five years, when contaminated areas needing immediate attention were found, Reynolds Metals Company and EPA cleaned up these problem spots quickly and transported the contaminated waste material to an approved off-site disposal area.

Actions taken since 1995 include:

- removal of 13,900 tons of cryolite, containing high levels of fluoride and other metals at the cryolite ponds
- removal of 11,000 tons of potliner and contaminated soil at the potliner area
- removal of 580 tons of PCB contaminated soil and debris from the casthouse building,
- removal of 2,600 tons of soil contaminated with diesel fuel and oil from an area east of the main facility
- decommissioning nine wells which might spread contamination into groundwater

Low Water Provides Opportunity to Clean Up Company Lake

Removal of contaminated *process residue* from a portion of Company Lake is scheduled this fall to take advantage of low water levels in the lake. *Process residue* is a waste material that has accumulated in the bottom of Company Lake. The residue is up to four feet thick and contains fluoride, PAHs, petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), cyanide, and low levels of PCBs. The process residue likely resulted from runoff from the carbon plant air emission control system that discharged to Company Lake between 1975 and 1989.

The target area for the removal is the northeastern 'thumb" of the 16-acre lake, where waste material is exposed, allowing excavation by mechanical equipment. Groundwater near Company Lake has been contaminated from the process residue leaching through the soil.

IN THIS ISSUE

Scrap Yard: A Continuing Source of Contamination

The scrap yard has been a continuing source of contamination to groundwater beneath the facility, so it is important to clean it up soon. The scrap yard contains manufacturing residues such as fluoride, cyanide, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and metals.

The scrap yard appears to be the source of fluoride contamination in medium-depth and deep groundwater under the facility. Groundwater samples taken about 400 feet down gradient from the scrap yard found fluoride concentrations of 130 milligrams per liter (mg/L), compared to a standard of 4 mg/L for drinking water. Controlling this source of contamination will decrease groundwater problems both now and in the future when the final cleanup is done.

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Nearing Completion

Reynolds Metals Company, under the oversight of EPA, completed a *remedial investigation and feasibility study* (RI/FS) last year. The report describes the investigation work completed to determine where, how much and what kind of contamination is at the site. The RI/FS also evaluates risks to human health and the environment. Most important, the RI/FS proposes a final cleanup remedy for the site and describes other alternatives considered for cleaning up the contamination.

Several major sources of contamination were identified during the investigation, including the scrap yard area, the north landfill area, the south landfill area and Company Lake. The primary contaminants identified in the soil at the site include fluoride, cyanide, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and metals. Extensive fluoride contamination has also been detected in groundwater beneath the plant site.

Closure of Reynolds Metals Facility Affects Proposed Plan For Final Cleanup

In June 2000, EPA was finalizing the proposed plan that describes the agency's preferred alternative for cleaning up the site, when the Reynolds Metals Company plant closed and ceased operations. Instead of being released for public comment, the proposed plan was reevaluated by EPA, because parts of the proposed remedy depended on pumping and using groundwater during normal operations at the facility.

EPA is re-evaluating the proposed actions to see if they are still workable with the closure of the facility. The Proposed Plan, detailing a preferred alternative cleanup remedy and other cleanup alternatives considered for the site, is now scheduled to be completed and distributed for public review and comment later this year. You will be notified by mail and public announcement when the public comment period opens.

Background About the Site

The Reynolds Metals Company Superfund Site is located 1.25 miles north of the city of Troutdale, Oregon in Multnomah County. The property is bordered by the Columbia River to the north, the Sandy River to the east, the Troutdale Airport to the south, and Salmon Creek to the west.

The Reynolds facility was a primary aluminum reduction plant where alumina was reduced to aluminum. Alcoa purchased Reynolds Metals Company last year and suspended operations at the Troutdale facility in the fall of 2000.

How You Can Participate

Please share this information with other people and groups in your community who may be interested in the ongoing cleanup at Reynolds Metals Company. For changes or additions to the mailing list, contact Judy Smith at the address or e-mail listed below.

To learn more about the Reynolds Metals Superfund site or to request a meeting, contact any one of the following individuals:

Judy Smith, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
1200 Sixth Avenue, Mailstop ECO-081
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-6246
Smith.Judy@EPA.gov

Chip Humphrey, EPA Project Manager
811 SW Sixth Avenue, 3rd Floor
Portland, OR 97204
503-326-2678
Humphrey.Chip@EPA.gov

Tony Barber, EPA On-Scene Coordinator
1200 Sixth Avenue, Mailstop ECL-116
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-2136
Barber.Anthony@EPA.gov

You can also visit the EPA website for Reynolds Metals Company.
Go to http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/, click on the Index button, click on R,
and select Reynolds Metals.

Anyone needing special accomodation can call EPA toll-free at
1-800-424-4372