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Fact Sheet

September, 2003

Record of Decision Approved
Hastings Ground Water Site, Operable Unit #20, Hastings, Nebraska

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a Record of Decision that addresses ground water contamination by hazardous substances in the aquifer at the Second Street Subsite of the Hastings Ground Water Contamination Site in Hastings, Nebraska. This action is being taken under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as the Superfund law.

The EPA Proposed Plan recommended actions that would help to restore contaminated ground water at this subsite to its beneficial uses by treating the water. Soil contamination at the source area will be addressed at a later date.

EPA took public comments on the Proposed Plan at a public meeting and through written submissions. Although EPA and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) recommended the proposed action to address the contamination, a final decision was not made until EPA reviewed comments from the public. After the comment period closed, EPA selected a remedy and has published a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD includes a summary of EPA's responses to the comments received during the public comment period.

ABOUT THE CONTAMINATION

The contamination at this subsite consists of benzene, toluene, xylene, naphthalene and PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) and other compounds. The primary source is a manufactured gas plant (MGP) that operated until the 1930's. A building at the former MGP property was occupied by the Hastings police department until Summer 2001.

SELECTED REMEDY

EPA's selected remedy consists of the following four elements:

1. Contaminated ground water east of Pine Avenue would be extracted and treated. The ground water would be treated, most likely with granular activated carbon, and discharged to Heartwell Lake.

2. In the remainder of the contaminated area east of Pine Avenue, oxygen-release compounds would be added to the ground water to enhance existing bacterial cleanup processes already found in the aquifer. The compound expected to be used, magnesium peroxide, degrades to a harmless magnesium hydroxide "milk of magnesia" residue.

3. Existing systems that partially address the contamination originating west of Pine Avenue would continue to operate. This includes an extraction and treatment unit and a soil vapor extraction unit near the "source area" west of Pine Avenue, and an in-well aeration treatment system located at Pine Avenue.

4. Long term ground water monitoring would assess the effectiveness of these steps.

The existing systems at Pine Avenue and west of Pine Avenue help to prevent the contamination from spreading, but are not aggressive enough to

clean up the aquifer permanently. In addition to the above remedy, further steps are expected to be taken later to address the contaminated soil in the source area.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Record of Decision and other site-related documents provide details of the nature and extent of contamination and the work that has been completed at the site. These documents are part of the Administrative Record File, available at the following locations:

Hastings Public Library
4th and Denver Streets
Hastings, Nebraska

EPA Region 7
Records Center
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact:

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