



Region 7

Iowa
Kansas
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Fact Sheet

August 2004

Arsenic Cleanup To Begin Armour Road Superfund Site, North Kansas City, Missouri

SITE UPDATE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7, will begin overseeing the first phase of an extensive arsenic cleanup at the Armour Road Superfund Site, 2251 Armour Road in North Kansas City, Missouri. The goal of the action is to eliminate human health and environmental threats posed by contaminated soils, and to restore the property to a condition that will allow for redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

The Armour Road Superfund Site is located in North Kansas City, Missouri, approximately ½ mile east of the intersection of Interstate 29/35 and Armour Road. The site is roughly bounded by Armour Road to the north, a retail lumber yard to the west, a rail line to the south, and a service road (Railroad Avenue) to the east.

Herbicide blending operations were conducted at the site from as early as the 1920s until 1986. Herbicides handled at the site were primarily used for weed control along rail lines, and included compounds containing arsenic, pentachlorophenol, 2,4-D, and 2,4,5-T. These herbicides included liquid and powder products.

From a health risk and environmental risk standpoint, arsenic is the primary contaminant at this site, found at levels as high as 121,000 parts per million, about 12 percent in surface soils, and several thousand parts per million in soils as deep as 15-18 feet. The total mass of arsenic

at the site is estimated at 168,000 kilograms, or about 185 tons. This mass of arsenic is entrained in an estimated 75,000 tons of soil. The arsenic poses a human health risk due to potential surface exposure, and poses a risk to the local aquifer due to leaching of arsenic into the groundwater.

CURRENT ACTIONS

EPA's primary objectives are to eliminate exposure pathways, or reduce chemical contaminant concentrations to levels that will protect human health and the environment; and, to reduce the migration of contaminants into the groundwater by removing the source of contaminants. In addition, EPA hopes that as a result of this response action, the site will be returned to commercial and/or industrial use.

The first phase of the action includes demolishing the building and other surface structures located on the site; and, disposing of the rubble into a permitted landfill. This cleanup will be conducted by certain parties responsible for the contamination pursuant to a legal settlement reached with the United States. The EPA will oversee the performance of the work by these parties.

NEXT STEPS

The second phase of the project will begin in late 2004 or early 2005, and will include the removal of thousands of tons of soil heavily contaminated with arsenic and other contaminants. The second phase of the project is expected to take 6 - 12 months to complete.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EPA encourages the community to review the Administrative Record file, which is available at the following location:

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

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

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Herbicide Formulating Building



Rail spur used to bring arsenic on and off the property.