



## Region 7

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# Fact Sheet

April 2004

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## Second Five-Year Review Completed

### John Deere - Ottumwa Site, Ottumwa, Iowa

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#### Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts regular five-year reviews, on certain Superfund sites, as required by the Superfund law. EPA Region 7 has completed its second five-year review of the John Deere - Ottumwa site. The site is bounded by the Wabash Railroad tracks on the west, Highway 63/34 on the east, and Vine Street on the north.

The EPA conducted the five-year review to make sure the cleanup continues to protect human health and the environment.

A single disposal area of approximately 20 acres was determined to exist on-site, with the depth of waste material ranging between four and ten feet. Waste material consists of amber to black colored sand that is easily crumbled and hardened greenish-yellow material with pieces of wood, coal, metal fragments, and paint chips.

#### Background

From 1911 through 1973, Deere & Company disposed of plant generated waste on-site by burying the wastes in the soil or burning them on top of the soil. Wastes buried on-site included solvents, paint sludges, heat treating cyanide, heat treating sludges, petroleum distillates, and foundry sand.

In May 1985, EPA conducted a Site Investigation and in 1990, Geraghty &

Miller, on behalf of Deere & Company, completed sampling and testing associated with the development of a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The investigations concluded that ground water, surface water, and sediment contamination posed no significant threat to human health and no remedial actions were necessary to protect people and the environment. To address potential threats posed by waste and soil contamination, institutional controls were selected to restrict contact with the site. These include perpetual maintenance of the existing eight-foot-high chain link fence topped with barbed wire, and lodging of deed restrictions preventing development of residences or other exposure situations on-site in the future.

#### Five Year Review

This five-year review process began with an examination of all relevant documents pertaining to the site, going back to the 1991 Record of Decision and the deed restrictions later placed on the property. It was followed by a site inspection to evaluate the fencing around the site for protectiveness. Ground water samples from the site were collected and tested.

The assessment of the inspection, sample testing, and reviews by EPA conclude that site risks due to potential exposure to ground water remain within the established acceptable limits and the remedy remains protective of human health and the environment.

## For More Information

Detailed site information can be found at the following locations:

Ottumwa Public Library 102 W. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street Ottumwa, Iowa	EPA Records Center 901 N. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street Kansas City, Kansas
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If you have questions or need more information on the John Deere - Ottumwa site or the Five-Year Review process, please contact:

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