



## Region 7

Iowa  
Kansas  
Missouri  
Nebraska

## Fact Sheet

July 2004

### **Proposed Deletion from National Priorities List Mid-America Tanning Company, Sergeant Bluff, Iowa**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to delete the Mid-America Tanning Company Superfund site from the National Priorities List. The site was added to the National Priorities List, or NPL, in 1989. The NPL is a list of hazardous waste sites in the country. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) concurs with this action. The Notice of Deletion was published on July 26, 2004. A 30-day comment period follows. EPA is asking the public for comments on the deletion.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Mid-America Tanning Company site, located south of Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, covers approximately 100 acres and processed hides under several names between 1969 and 1989. In 1979, the Mid-America Tanning Company disposed of an estimated 1,300 cubic yards of tannery sludges containing chromium into two unlined trenches on the property.

U.S. Tanning acquired the operation in 1985. Wastes were treated on site. Solids were settled out in concrete-lined basins and unlined impoundments, while liquids were chemically treated and then discharged into an oxbow lake. Impoundment sludges were thought to emit dangerous levels of hydrogen sulfide gas if disturbed.

The site is in the Missouri River flood plain. Approximately 85 people live within a 1-mile radius of the site, and 850 people live within 3 miles.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

EPA is requesting comments on the proposed delisting. Written comments will be accepted until August 26, 2004. Please send comments to:

Robert Stewart  
Project Manager  
EPA Region 7  
Superfund Division  
901 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101  
[stewart.robert@epa.gov](mailto:stewart.robert@epa.gov)

#### **SITE ACTIVITIES**

The site has been addressed through Federal, State, and potentially responsible parties' actions. These actions included the following:

- EPA excavated approximately 1,300 cubic yards of contaminated soil and sludge from on-site burial pits.

- The material was immobilized and capped as part of the final cleanup remedy.
- EPA removed any raw materials found on site and recycled them.
- A PRP completed the removal of drum wastes, cleaned two buildings, and secured other buildings on the site.
- EPA amended the original remedy to address the threat of a potential release of unacceptable levels of hydrogen sulfide gas.
- IDNR has assumed responsibility over the operation and maintenance of the remedial action.

### **DELETION ACTION**

EPA and IDNR have determined that all appropriate actions under Superfund have been completed. The clean-up actions at the site were successful in removing chromium, arsenic, barium, and lead that exceeded a health-based level. This was accomplished by excavating and capping buried sludges and soils, and by treating contaminated water on the site.

Since hazardous substances were left on the site, five year reviews will be conducted. The first five year review was conducted in 2003, and showed that the remedy was protective of human health and the environment.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information about the site and the deletion is available for public review

following locations:

Sergeant Bluff City Hall  
401 Fourth Street  
Sergeant Bluff, Iowa

EPA Region 7  
Records Center  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Henry A. Wallace Building  
900 East Grand  
Des Moines, Iowa

If you have questions about the site or the deletion, please contact:

#### **Beckie Himes**

Community Involvement Coordinator  
EPA Region 7  
Office of External Programs  
901 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101  
[himes.beckie@epa.gov](mailto:himes.beckie@epa.gov)  
913-551-7003

#### **Robert Stewart**

Project Manager  
EPA Region 7  
Superfund Division  
901 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101  
[stewart.robert@epa.gov](mailto:stewart.robert@epa.gov)  
913-551-7654  
Toll free: 1-800-223-0425

during normal business hours at the