



Region 7

Iowa
Kansas
Missouri
Nebraska

Fact Sheet

November 2004

Proposed Cleanup Plan Out for Public Comment Offutt Air Force Base, Bellevue, Nebraska

INTRODUCTION

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 invites the public to comment on the proposed cleanup plan for Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska. Specifically, the proposed cleanup plan addresses the Fire Training Area 3. In addition, EPA proposes to modify Part II of the Hazardous Waste Storage Permit to include the requirements of the remedy.

The public comment period will start on Wed., November 10, 2004 and end on Mon., January 10, 2005.

In addition, EPA will hold a public meeting so community members can learn about the proposed cleanup plan. EPA representatives will be available to answer any questions about the proposed cleanup plan. Meeting details are located in the box to your right. The meeting is open to the public.

PROPOSED CLEANUP PLAN

Excavate and Treat Soil

The proposal includes removal of contaminated soils from the former smokehouse and burn pit areas and treatment of those soils in a single 6-inch lift land treatment unit. Contaminated soil will be tilled into the upper 4-6 inches of

How to Submit Your Comments

Please submit your written comments on the proposed cleanup plan to:

Jeff Johnson, Ph.D.
EPA Region 7 ARTD/RCAP
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
Phone: (913) 551-7849 or
Toll free: (800)223-0425

Written comments will be accepted from November 10, 2004 to January 10, 2005.

How to Learn More

Please attend the public meeting to learn more about the proposed cleanup plan:

For Whom: Bellevue community and any other interested person
When: November 30, 2004, from 4p.m to 6p.m.
Where: Bellevue Public Schools Welcome Center
1600 Hwy 370
Who: EPA will be available to answer any questions about the proposal.

native soil. Then, the soil will be repeatedly tilled and aerated until it meets the treatment standards.

Monitored Natural Attenuation

After the source of soil contamination is removed, monitored natural attenuation will be used to address remaining groundwater impacts. Monitored natural attenuation uses natural processes to reduce contaminant concentrations over time. These processes include:

- Adsorption (when contaminants stick permanently to soil particles)
- Biological degradation (use of contaminants as a food source by microbes)

The groundwater cleanup standards are expected to be met within 10 years by removing the soil's contamination source in conjunction with monitored natural attenuation.

Implement Land Use Controls

Land use controls help minimize the potential for human exposure to contamination and/or protect the integrity of a remedy. In this case, land use controls will be used to restrict water well installations and construction and excavation activities deeper than 4 inches. These controls will remain in place until cleanup objectives have been met.

Modify Part II of Permit

Also, EPA proposes to modify Part II of the Offutt AFB Hazardous Waste Storage Permit to include the requirements of the remedy. The permittee's compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from the Agency contact person.

BACKGROUND

Fire Training Area 3 is located in the eastern part of the base and consists of the former fire training burn pit and the foundation of the former smokehouse. Offutt Air Force Base used the area for fire protection training exercises from 1960 to 1990. Waste fuels and solvents were used during the training exercises.

THE CONTAMINATION

Offutt Air Force Base first identified Fire Training Area 3 as an area of concern during a Phase I Records Search in 1985. Subsequent investigations confirmed the presence of petroleum hydrocarbons and chlorinated solvent contamination in soils and groundwater. The highest concentration was found in the area of the former burn pit and smokehouse. The primary contaminants of concern include:

- Benzene,
- Vinyl chloride, and
- Trichloroethene, also known as TCE.
- 1, 2 Dichloroethene
- 1, 2 Dichloroethane

Except for TCE, concentrations of these contaminants exceed the maximum contaminant levels in groundwater. Maximum contaminant levels are the maximum, allowable levels of a contaminant in drinking water. These elevated groundwater contaminant levels are believed to be the result of residual soil contamination.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EPA encourages the community to review the Administrative Record and comment on the proposed cleanup plan and other evaluated alternatives. Comments or requests should be submitted by January 10, 2005.

Guidelines for Commenting:

- Explain your views and tell us why you feel that way.
- Tell us if you support or disagree with the recommendation. Please be specific.
- Can you provide alternatives?

The administrative record is available at the following locations:

Bellevue Public Library
1003 Lincoln Street
Bellevue, NE 68005
402-293-3157
Hours of Operation:
Mon.-Thurs. 9 am-9pm
Fri.-Sat. 9am-5pm
Sun. Noon-5pm

EPA Region 7
Information Resource Center
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
913-551-7241
Hours of Operation:
Mon.- Fri. 9 am-3:30pm

A more formal public hearing has not been scheduled for this action but will be held if there is sufficient public interest.

Requests for a public hearing must be made in writing to the EPA contact at the address listed on page one and must state the nature of issues to be raised at the hearing. EPA will evaluate any request and hold a formal hearing, if it finds that a hearing will contribute to the decision-making process by clarifying significant issues affecting the cleanup remedy.

EPA will make a final cleanup decision only after the public comment period ends and all comments are reviewed. EPA may modify the proposed remedy or choose another one, based on any new information and comments from the public.

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information, please contact:

Shawntell Martin
Office of External Programs
U.S. EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101
Phone: 913-551-7003 or 1-800-223-0425

Phil Cork is the Offutt Air Force Base contact. He can be reached at 402-294-7621.