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## Region 7

Iowa  
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## Fact Sheet

February 2005

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### Site Update and Potential Modification to Remedy Chemplex Superfund Site, Clinton, Iowa

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#### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide current information regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) activities at the Chemplex Site in Clinton, Iowa, since completion of the Second Five Year Review in June 2004. In the Second Five Year Review, EPA concluded that, although the remedy remained protective, a plan was needed to address the inability of the current ground water pump and treat system to contain contaminated ground water in the designated area.

EPA has been working with Citigroup and ChevronTexaco (known as ACC/GCC), the parties conducting the Chemplex Site cleanup, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to develop such a plan.

#### SITE BACKGROUND

The Chemplex facility was constructed in 1967, and is still in operation. Equistar LP is the current operator. The facility manufactures high- and low-density polyethylene plastics from chemical stock.

Due to past waste disposal practices, ground water and soil at the site were contaminated. The contaminants of concern are volatile organic compounds

(VOCs) and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

#### CURRENT PROGRESS

The site is being managed as two operable units. Chemplex OU#1 addresses ground water contamination at the site. EPA selected a ground water extraction and treatment remedy in a 1989 Record of Decision (ROD). This remedial action has been in operation since May 1994.

Chemplex OU#2 addressed the contaminated soils and wastes at the site. In a 1993 ROD, EPA selected capping and soil vapor extraction (SVE) as the remedy for OU#2. ACC/GCC completed construction of the cap and SVE system in 1998. The SVE ceased operation in 2003, because it met the shutoff criteria established for this action.

#### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

EPA has reviewed and commented on preliminary proposals by ACC/GCC to modify the ground water extraction and treatment system, in a manner that would meet the cleanup objectives of the Superfund program.

One of the preliminary alternatives suggested by ACC/GCC was shutting down the existing pump and treat system,

extending the municipal water line to provide drinking water to residences in the area potentially affected by ground water contamination, and limiting the use of the ground water in the area.

EPA has requested that ACC/GCC prepare a focused feasibility study (Focused FS), looking at potential alternatives to the existing extraction and treatment system. The Focused FS will include an evaluation of how the contaminated ground water would migrate if the extraction system were to be turned off; possible contingency measures that could be implemented if the ground water did not migrate as anticipated; and recommended institutional controls to limit ground water use.

IDNR has proposed a Chapter 53 restriction on installation of new wells in this area as one such limitation on ground water use. Extending the City water service to residences in this area with private wells would provide an additional level of protectiveness. EPA expects to receive a proposed Focused FS this summer. EPA may ask ACC/GCC to make further modifications of the proposed Focused FS after review.

### **EPA'S REMEDY SELECTION PROCESS**

If changes are made in the remedy similar to those discussed above, EPA would consider them to be significant changes from the existing remedy. In the case of significant changes, EPA would amend the existing remedial action decision using a formal decision-making process EPA calls a ROD amendment. The basic steps in a ROD amendment process for this site would be:

- ACC/GCC will submit a final Focused FS, which addresses all of EPA's comments;
- EPA will then prepare a Proposed Plan which will summarize the information from the Focused FS and describe EPA's preferred alternative;
- EPA will make the Proposed Plan available to the public for review and comment for a period of at least 30 days;
- After EPA reviews comments from the public and consults with the IDNR, it will decide on the revised remedy in what is called an amended Record of Decision.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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

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