



Region 7

Iowa
Kansas
Missouri
Nebraska

Fact Sheet

May 2003

Remedy Completed

Former Diller Battery Site, Des Moines, Iowa

INTRODUCTION

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7, Union Pacific Railroad Company, the City of Des Moines and Polk County announce the completion of the remedy at the Former Diller Battery site, 701 Corning Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa. On June 4, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., a tree will be planted at the corner of 6th Avenue and Boston Avenue, to commemorate the conclusion of the removal action.

SITE BACKGROUND

The site is in a commercial area of north-central Des Moines. It is bordered by a residential neighborhood to the north, light industry to the east and south, and Riverview Park Lake to the west.

In 1953, the facility was operated jointly by Diller Battery and Span-O-Life Battery, and by Span-O-Life Battery only in 1954. From 1955 to 1964, the Hunter Manufacturing Company manufactured beds at the site. This part of the site, which includes a small metal storage shed and a concrete pad, was fenced in 1997 by the City of Des Moines.

Another part of the site, located northeast of the former Diller Battery Company property at the southwest corner of 6th Avenue and Boston Avenue, was previously the location of a school. The school was demolished in 1994. Fill dirt may have been moved from the Diller Battery property onto the cleared lot.

In 1995, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources collected soil samples at the site after the City of Des Moines notified them of potential contamination. Elevated levels of lead were found in the soil. EPA collected soil samples in June 1996, and found elevated levels of lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons or PAHs.

TREE PLANTING

EPA, the City of Des Moines, Union Pacific Railroad, and Polk County will plant a tree at the corner of 6th Avenue and Boston Avenue, to commemorate the conclusion of the removal action. The public is invited to attend.

**Wednesday, June 4, 2003
9:00 a.m.
Former Diller Battery Facility
6th Avenue and Boston
Des Moines, Iowa**

For more information please contact:

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In September 1998, the City of Des Moines and the Union Pacific Railroad Company, two of the owners of the site, signed an agreement known as an Administrative Order on Consent, to assess the contamination at the site and identify alternatives to address the contamination. Polk County also agreed to contribute money toward costs associated with the site assessment.

The City of Des Moines and the Union Pacific Railroad took additional soil samples in May 1999, to assess the extent of the contamination. The samples indicated elevated levels of lead were present within the fenced part of the site where the battery factory was previously located. Elevated levels of PAHs were found over the entire surface area of the site. The source of the PAHs is unclear.

CURRENT STATUS

The EPA and several potentially responsible parties, including the City of Des Moines, Union Pacific Railroad Company, and Polk County signed an agreement to clean up the site. Site work began in July 2002 and took 6 months to complete.

The contaminants of concern at the site were lead and PAHs. Lead and PAHs were found in surface soils on the site, above health-based levels.

The site work consisted of excavating and disposing of the contaminated soil on the site. The contaminated soil was taken off site and disposed of in an approved landfill. Clean soil was placed in the excavated areas and was re-vegetated. Nine thousand tons of lead- and PAH-contaminated soil was removed. Five hundred tons of concrete rubble were disposed of. One underground storage tank was also removed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

An Administrative Record File consisting of site-related documents has been prepared for the site and is available for public review. The Administrative Record File can be viewed at the following locations during normal business hours:

Des Moines North Side
Public Library
3516 5th Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa

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

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

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