



Region 7

Iowa
Kansas
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Fact Sheet

May 2003

Proposed Cleanup Plan Out for Public Comment Univar Corporation, Buckingham Place Facility, Omaha, Nebraska

INTRODUCTION

EPA Region 7 invites the public to comment on the proposed cleanup plan. The proposed cleanup plan is for on- and off-site groundwater contamination and on-site soil contamination. The public comment period will start Mon., May 12, 2003 and end Thurs., June 26, 2003.

BACKGROUND

The facility is located at 4120 Buckingham Place in south Omaha.

The Warren Douglass Chemical Company repackaged mineral acids and solvents and blended chemicals, such as paint thinners, disinfectants, insecticides, mineral oils, and feed additives, from 1954 to 1980. The company bulk-stored, blended, and repackaged acids, bases, pesticides, and industrial solvents.

Univar bought the facility in 1980 and stopped blending pesticides. But, the facility continued to stock prepackaged pesticides for resale. These pesticides were stored in a warehouse at the facility. From 1980 to 1989, the facility transferred chemicals from bulk storage tanks to smaller containers. The chemicals were pumped through fixed piping to the repackaging areas. Flexible hoses with stainless steel filling wands were generally used to transfer the chemicals.

THE CONTAMINATION

Chemicals spilled while they were pumped from bulk storage and put into smaller containers. Soil contaminated with pesticides and chlorinated volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including carbon tetrachloride, tetrachloroethene, and

trichloroethene (TCE), has been found on-site. Groundwater contaminated with those same VOCs has also been found on- and off-site.

The soil, contaminated with pesticides, is limited to an area in the southwest portion

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

EPA is seeking comments on the proposed plan **from May 12, 2003, to June 26, 2003**. Please send your written comments to:

Patricia Murrow
EPA Region 7 ARTD/RCAP
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
Phone: (913) 551-7627 or
Toll free: (800)223-0425
Email: murrow.patricia@epa.gov

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 us alternatives?
-

of the facility. Shallow soil (up to 2 feet deep) contained the highest concentrations. Aldrin and dieldrin were the most frequently detected pesticides. The highest levels of chlorinated volatile organic compounds were found in soil in the northwest part of the facility.

Based on initial investigations in 1990, Univar removed all aboveground structures, installed a security fence; repaired the remaining surface concrete; and covered soil with a liner.

Currently, no one in the area is exposed to contaminated groundwater, according to sampling results.

THE PROPOSED CLEANUP PLAN

EPA has proposed three remedies: one for the contaminated soil and two for the contaminated groundwater.

On-site soil contamination

Remedy: Build and Maintain a Permanent Soil Cap Over Contaminated Areas

The cap will prevent unintentional human contact with contaminated soil and reduce the potential for precipitation to cause movement of contamination to groundwater. Also, Univar will restrict digging in the contaminated areas

Off-site groundwater contamination

Remedy: Monitored Natural Attenuation

Over time, natural processes tend to remove contamination from groundwater. These processes include:

- ▶ Dilution (fresh water mixing with contaminated water)
- ▶ Adsorption (when contaminants stick permanently to soil particles)
- ▶ Biological degradation (use of contaminants as a food source by microbes)

Groundwater quality will be monitored using a system of wells. These wells will be sampled to make sure the contaminants do not move and exceed the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). MCLs are the maximum levels of hazardous waste allowed to be present in the drinking water.

On-site groundwater contamination

Remedy: Pump, Treat (if necessary), and Dispose

Groundwater will be pumped from a system of about three wells. Each well will be pumped at a rate necessary to keep on-site groundwater from moving off-site. Treatment and disposal methods will be selected based on the concentration of contaminants in the water.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EPA encourages the community to review the Administrative Record file, which is available at the following locations:

South Omaha Public Library
2302 M Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68107
(402) 444-4850

EPA Region 7 Info. Resource Center
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
1-800-223-0425 or
(913) 551-7241

A public hearing to discuss this proposed cleanup plan has not been scheduled. If requests indicate significant public interest, a public hearing will be scheduled. Requests for a public hearing should be made in writing to the EPA contact at the address listed on page one. The requests should state the nature of issues to be raised at the hearing. Comments or requests should be submitted prior to June 16, 2003.

After all comments have been received, EPA will make a final cleanup decision. If the decision is to approve the plan without significant changes, EPA will notify all commentors or persons requesting a notice of final decision. If the plan is significantly changed, EPA will issue a public notice indicating the change. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact:

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