



Region 7

Iowa
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Fact Sheet

October 2004

First Five-Year Review Completed Missouri Electric Works Superfund Site, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts regular five-year reviews on certain Superfund sites where some contamination remains on the site. These reviews are required by the Superfund law [42 U.S.C. § 9621(c)].

Five-year reviews are conducted to make sure the actions taken at a site continue to protect human health and the environment. EPA Region 7 recently conducted its first five-year review for the Missouri Electric Works (MEW) site. The MEW Five-Year Review Report has been completed and has been incorporated into the MEW Site Administrative Record.

Site Background

The MEW site is located at 824 South Kingshighway in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. MEW conducted a motor and transformer repair and sales business from 1954 until 1992. PCB contamination of site soils was discovered by EPA in 1984. Additional investigations were performed between 1984 and 1990 and again between 2000 and 2004. The investigation of soil contamination was completed as a remedial investigation (RI) performed by a group of potentially responsible parties (PRPs). The investigations evaluated the extent and magnitude of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination in the soils. The maximum PCB concentration in soils at the site was 58,000 ppm.

The MEW site was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in February 1990. The National Priorities List is EPA's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term cleanup under the Superfund program.

The PRP Steering Committee submitted a focused feasibility study to EPA during the Fall of 1994. Based on the focused study, review of publications on the effectiveness of thermal desorption and input from other sources, EPA modified the selected remedy for the site. Modification of the selected remedy allowed consideration of both the on-site incineration and on-site thermal desorption technologies during the proposal evaluation process. The selected remedy was modified under an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) issued during February 1995. Work at the site, to address the PCB-contaminated soils began during June 1999. A low temperature thermal desorber, operated by Williams Environmental Services, Inc. of Stone Mountain, Georgia, was erected at the site. Treatment of the last batch of PCB-contaminated soils was performed on July 22, 2000.

Additional work was performed by the PRPs after the Record of Decision (ROD) was issued and prior to the approval of the Consent Decree. As a result of that work, PCB contamination of the ground water was discovered. Additional investigation of the ground

water was conducted between 2000 and 2004 as part of the required work outlined in the consent decree.

Five-Year Review

The five-year review was conducted from December 2003 through September 2004.

- The soil remedy is protective of human health.
- The ground water portion of the response action has not yet been implemented. Ground water, if ingested, could represent a potential risk to human health.
- New standards for ecological risk or risk to the environment have been instituted since the ROD was signed in September 1990. Additional work needs to be performed to assess whether or not there is any threat to the environment.

The investigation of ground water contamination is progressing. An interim ROD to address ground water within limestone bedrock is anticipated yet this year. There is currently no use of the ground water within the impacted area so any risk due to ingestion is very small. Further studies are being planned to determine whether or not the remaining PCB contamination poses any risk to the environment.

Additional Information

The Administrative Record file contains relevant site information, including the Remedial Investigation report, the ESD, quarterly ground water monitoring reports and the Five-Year Review Report. The Administrative Record file is available for public review at these locations during normal business hours.

Cape Girardeau Public Library
711 N. Clark Street
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

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

The Five-Year Review Report is available online at:

www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/index.htm

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

Fritz Hirter
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 7
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
(913) 551-7003
Toll-free: 1-800-223-0425

or

Pauletta France-Isetts
Remedial Project Manager
Superfund Division
U.S. EPA Region 7
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101