



Region 7

Iowa
Kansas
Missouri
Nebraska

Fact Sheet

July 2004

Quarterly Sampling and Community Meeting Hills Iowa Perchlorate Site

SITE UPDATE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 will return to Hills July 19 - 31, 2004. The purpose of the visit is to conduct groundwater and soil sampling. The EPA invites you to attend a community meeting on July 15, 2004, to find out about ongoing sampling efforts and progress on the project.

- ▶ To monitor the private wells that had previously reported perchlorate concentrations between 4.0 and 18.0 ppb, and;
- ▶ To determine the source of perchlorate contamination in groundwater.

BACKGROUND

Most of the population of Hills obtains potable water from shallow, private sandpoint wells. A plume of perchlorate-contaminated, shallow groundwater has reached numerous drinking water wells in the southern third of Hills. The deeper wells have not been affected. The source of the perchlorate is unknown. Many of the wells also have nitrates above the detection level but below drinking water standards.

An on-going EPA-funded action provides bottled water to families with private drinking water wells exceeding 18 parts per billion (ppb) perchlorate. Twenty-four homes are now receiving bottled water.

Quarterly re-sampling of homes in the area of contamination is being conducted. If families have new levels exceeding 18 ppb, they will be provided with bottled water.

In February and March 2004, sampling was conducted in Hills. The purpose of the sampling was twofold:

COMMUNITY MEETING

EPA will host a community meeting to provide information, answer questions and receive comments on the Hills Iowa Perchlorate Site. The meeting will be held:

**Thursday, July 15, 2004
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Hills Community Center
110 E. Main Street
Hills, Iowa 52235**

For more information please contact:

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The EPA has recently completed identification of the edges of the perchlorate groundwater contamination area.

Perchlorate was detected in 40 of the 109 groundwater samples collected during the February and March 2004 assessment. Of these 40 samples, 30 were collected from private residential and commercial wells. The concentrations in these samples ranged from 4.0 to 18.5 ppb.

The remaining 10 groundwater samples that contained perchlorate were collected from fields and parkland utilizing a geoprobe that can pull groundwater samples and subsurface soil samples. Perchlorate concentrations in those groundwater samples ranged from 4.15 to 108 ppb.

Perchlorate was detected in only two of the 179 soil samples at trace levels (less than 2 parts per million).

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Belinda Young at (913) 551-7003, 800-223-0425, or by e-mail at young.belinda@epa.gov.