



Region 7

Iowa
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Fact Sheet

December 2004

Record of Decision Approved Newton County Wells Site, Newton County, Missouri

INTRODUCTION

On September 30, 2004, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 approved a Record of Decision (ROD) prepared by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to address hazardous substance contamination at the Newton County Wells Superfund Site in Newton County, Missouri. This action was taken under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as the Superfund law.

In August 2004, MDNR issued a Proposed Plan presenting the remedial alternatives preferred for addressing the site's ground water contamination. The public comment period began August 3 and concluded on September 3, 2004. MDNR held a public meeting on August 19, 2004. After the public comment period closed, MDNR and EPA selected a remedy and published the ROD.

ABOUT THE CONTAMINATION

The contamination at this site consists of the volatile organic compound (VOC) trichloroethylene (TCE). In April 1991, during off-site sampling at another Joplin-area site, the Missouri

Department of Health (MDOH) collected samples from residential wells in Silver Creek, Missouri. The sampling results indicated the presence of TCE in several private residential wells.

The FAG Bearings facility in Joplin was identified as the suspected source of the contamination. From 1972 to 1982, FAG Bearings used TCE as a degreaser to manufacture ball bearings.

In 1991, EPA supplied bottled water to affected homes in Silver Creek until a permanent solution could be implemented. In December 1991, EPA collected additional samples from residential wells in Saginaw. The results showed contamination extended into Saginaw. EPA also provided bottled water to these residents. By 1994, a local public water supply system had been extended to cover the affected residents of Silver Creek and Saginaw.

In December 1998, MDNR and FAG Bearings signed an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) requiring the company to conduct an investigation of the contamination. In July 2000, the site was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL). In October 2000, MDNR and FAG Bearings negotiated

another AOC to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study of the ground water contamination on and near the FAG Bearings property.

SELECTED REMEDY

Monitored Natural Attenuation

The source of soil contamination has been removed. Monitored natural attenuation will be used to address remaining ground water impacts. Monitored natural attenuation relies on natural processes to reduce contaminant concentrations over time. Periodic sampling of the ground water will be used to monitor the natural attenuation of the TCE plume, ensure plume degradation and the continued protectiveness of the selected remedy.

Implement Land Use Controls

Land use controls (also known as institutional controls) help minimize the potential for human exposure to contamination and/or protect the integrity of a remedy. In this case, controls will be implemented to prevent installation of wells for domestic purposes into the contaminated portion of the Mississippian Aquifer. These controls also prevent cross contamination between contaminated portions of the Mississippian Aquifer and deeper aquifers. Land use controls will also ensure that existing contaminated residential wells are plugged and not reopened for future use.

In-Situ Chemical Oxidation Contingency

The remedy includes a contingency plan to implement in-situ chemical oxidation to help further reduce the ground water plume if sampling over the first five years does not show a significant decreasing trend in TCE levels.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Record of Decision and other site documents provide details of the nature and extent of contamination and the work that has been completed at this site.

These documents are part of the Administrative Record, available at the following locations:

Joplin Public Library
300 South Main Street
Joplin, Missouri

Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources
Records Center
1738 E. Elm Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

EPA Region 7
Records Center
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

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

Dianna Whitaker
Office of External Programs
U.S. EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101
Phone: 913-551-7003
Toll-free 1-800-223-0425
E-mail: whitaker.dianna@epa.gov

Don Van Dyke
Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: 573-751-9430
Toll-free 1-800-361-4827

Tonya Howell
Superfund Division
U.S. EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101
Toll-free: 1-800-223-0425
E-mail: howell.tonya@epa.gov