



Region 7

Iowa
Kansas
Missouri
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Fact Sheet

October 2004

Record of Decision Issued

Waterloo Coal Gasification Plant Site, Waterloo, Iowa

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a Record of Decision (ROD) that addresses ground water contamination at the Waterloo Coal Gasification Plant in Waterloo, Iowa. This action is being taken under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as the Superfund law. The ROD was signed on September 24, 2004.

EPA took public comments on the Proposed Plan for the Site at a public meeting held on June 16, 2004. EPA did not receive any written comments during the June 10, 2004 to July 10, 2004 comment period. EPA recommended specific actions in the Proposed Plan to address the contamination; however, a final decision was not made until EPA had an opportunity to review comments received from the public and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) concurred with EPA's recommended actions.

After the comment period closed, EPA selected a remedy as documented in the Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD includes a summary of EPA's responses to the comments received during the public comment period.

ABOUT THE CONTAMINATION

Contaminants usually associated with the production of manufactured gas include a

group of semivolatile organic compounds referred to as polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). There are sixteen PAH compounds which were analyzed for throughout the course of the investigations at this Site. Seven of these compounds are considered by EPA to be probable human carcinogens.

Other contaminants usually found at manufactured gas plant sites include benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, and xylene, which are sometimes collectively referred to as BETX. Some forms of cyanide, arsenic, phenolic compounds, and metals may also be found. Samples collected at the Site were analyzed for each of these contaminants as well.

SELECTED REMEDY

EPA's selected remedy consists of the following four elements:

- Implementation of institutional controls in the form of environmental easements and/or deed restrictions on the site prohibiting residential development and installation of any water supply wells for municipal, industrial, or domestic uses;
- Establishment of Alternate Concentration Limits (ACLs) for ground water;
- Sampling of ground water and surface water to monitor compliance with ACLs; and

- Continued listing of the site on the Registry of Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Substance Disposal Sites pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code 455B.426.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Record of Decision and other site-related documents provide details of the nature and extent of contamination and the work that has been completed at the site. These documents are part of the Administrative Record File, available during normal business hours at the following locations:

Waterloo Public Library
415 Commercial Street
Waterloo, Iowa

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

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

Beckie Himes
Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA, Region 7, Office of External
Programs
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
913-551-7003
Toll-free 1-800-223-0425
E-mail: himes.beckie@epa.gov