



## Region 7

Iowa  
Kansas  
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## Fact Sheet

March 2004

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### Second Five-Year Review To Begin Chemplex Superfund Site, Clinton, Iowa

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#### Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviews cleanup actions at certain Superfund sites at least every five years. These regular five-year reviews are required by the Superfund law [42 U.S.C. § 9621(c)] to make sure the site remains safe and the cleanup actions continue to protect public health and the environment.

EPA's first five-year review of the Chemplex site in Clinton, Iowa, was completed in June 1999. That review concluded the remedy continued to be protective. EPA has started the process of gathering the information necessary for a second review.

#### Site Background

The Chemplex facility was constructed in 1967 and has been in operation since then. Equistar Chemicals, LP, is the current operator. The facility manufactures high and low-density polyethylene plastics from chemical stock.

Areas of concern at the facility included:

1. The inactive landfill. Beginning about 1968 and continuing for 10 years, the former operators disposed of plant wastes in an on-site landfill. The landfill is no longer being used for waste disposal but it serves as a continuing source of contaminants released to the soil and groundwater.

2. The Debutanized Aromatic Concentrate (DAC) Storage/Truck Loading area. Over the years, multiple spills resulted in soil and groundwater contamination.
3. Other on-site disposal locations: the Polishing Basin area, the Previous Basin area, Former Waste Pile F area, and Surface Impoundments B, C, and D. The wastes have been removed from these locations.

The contaminants of concern are volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). These contaminants have been found in the ground water and soils.

#### Status of Site Cleanup

EPA divided cleanup activities at the site into two phases. The first phase of the cleanup addressed the ground water. The ground water extraction and treatment system has been constructed and is currently operating. The purpose of the system is to contain the plume of ground water contamination. The former operators continue to collect and analyze ground water data to ensure the system is operating as designed. EPA continues to review all monitoring reports and collects and analyzes independent ground water samples to ensure human health and the environment are protected.

The second phase of the cleanup addressed contaminated soils and wastes on the site. The soil caps and vegetative covers were installed and the soil vapor

extraction (SVE) system was constructed and operated until cleanup objectives were reached 4 years later. The SVE system is a treatment process that uses vacuum wells to remove hazardous gases from the soil. EPA reviewed all documents related to the design and construction of the system and provided oversight during the construction and testing of the system.

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

Fritz Hirter  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Region 7  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101  
(913) 551-7003  
Toll Free: (800) 223-0425  
email: hirter.fritz@epa.gov

## **The Five-Year Review**

The five-year review process includes:

- the review and analysis of existing monitoring and operational data,
- the review of site information, and
- the inspection of the site to visually confirm and document the condition of the remedy.

EPA conducted an inspection of the site. Current site information will be reviewed by EPA and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to make sure the remedy continues to be protective. We encourage the community to tell us about site conditions or any concerns.

At the end of the review, a final report will be prepared and will be available in the site information repositories. The goal is to complete the review and report in June 2004.

## **Additional Information**

Detailed site information, including the first five-year review report, is available at the following locations:

EPA Records Center  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas

Camanche Public Library  
Head Librarian  
102 12th Avenue  
Camanche, Iowa

Clinton Public Library  
Head Librarian  
306 8th Avenue, South  
Clinton, Iowa