



Region 7

Iowa
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Fact Sheet

March 2004

Site Investigation Activities Planned Columbus Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site, Columbus, Nebraska

UPDATE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is planning to conduct additional investigation activities at the Columbus Former Manufactured Gas Plant (FMGP). The Site is located at 1169 22nd Avenue in Columbus, Nebraska. The work will be performed in March and April 2004, weather permitting, by Centel Corporation and Aquila, Inc., with EPA overseeing the work.

A limited investigation of the FMGP site was conducted at and around the property in May 2003. The planned additional investigation will focus on the contamination source areas on the FMGP site. It will also provide for additional, permanent monitoring wells, for monitoring ground water upgradient and downgradient, as well as on the FMGP site.

This work is being conducted in coordination with EPA's work at the 10th Street Superfund Site. The Columbus FMGP is located within the boundaries of the 10th Street site.

PLANNED SITE INVESTIGATION

During earlier investigations, a number of underground structures and potential source areas were identified, including a FMGP operations building, gas storage tanks and a gas holder, and tar and gas tanks. The previous limited investigation on the site, which indicated various levels of contamination in the soil and ground water, and the information on the structures and potential sources, will guide future additional work.

The planned investigation will include excavating three test trenches, collecting at least 25 soil samples, and installing 12 monitoring wells. Samples of soil and ground water will be collected and submitted for analysis. The purpose of collecting the soil samples onsite is to better characterize the potential source areas and extent of contamination. The ground investigation will provide a baseline of information in relation to the operation of the 10th Street Superfund Site extraction wells. It will also provide for long term monitoring points on and around the FMGP.

BACKGROUND

Four environmental investigations have been completed at the FMGP, including a preliminary assessment in January 1991, a site investigation in May 1992, a Phase One Environmental Assessment in 1995, and a Removal Site Evaluation in 2003. Onsite investigations have included the installation of three ground water monitoring wells, 11 soil probes/borings and related sampling, and analysis of ground water and soil samples.

Multiple additional investigations not previously related to the FMGP site have been conducted by the EPA to address issues related to the 10th Street Superfund Site. EPA is currently constructing the remedial action at the 10th Street Site to address the ground water contamination that is a source of contamination of the City's municipal water supply system.

EPA has completed construction of the ground water extraction wells water treatment plant and related piping. EPA expects to begin operation of the ground water extraction and treatment system in the Spring of 2004.

10TH STREET SUPERFUND SITE

EPA is currently in the process of implementing the remedy required by the September 2001 Record of Decision (ROD), which includes continued operation of the air sparging/soil vapor extraction (AS/SVE) system and construction of a ground water extraction and treatment system.

EPA is continuing to operate the AS/SVE system. The ground water extraction and treatment system consists of two extraction wells in the shallow aquifer, and one extraction well in the deeper aquifer. Contaminated ground water from the extraction wells will be conveyed to the treatment building, located at 10th Street between 27th and 28th Avenues. EPA continues to conduct quarterly monitoring of both the monitoring and municipal wells to evaluate the AS/SVE and ground water extraction and treatment systems' ability to address the contaminant plume.

As requested by EPA, the City of Columbus has implemented the ordinance which controls use of the ground water in the plume of contamination.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions about this fact sheet or the Columbus FMGP site, please contact:

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