



Region 7

Iowa
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Fact Sheet

February 2004

Tri-County Public Airport Site Herington, Kansas

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 has completed the development of an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) to address contaminated soils in the vicinity of the north hangar (hangar 1) at the Herington Regional Airport (Tri-County Public Airport Site).

This area is believed to be a source of ground water contamination at the Herington Regional Airport. EPA prepared the EE/CA at the request of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) in anticipation of a response action to address contaminated soils in the north hangar area.

BACKGROUND

The Herington Army Air Field (HAAF) was utilized by the Department of Defense (DOD) between 1942 and 1947. In 1948, the federal government transferred the property to the City of Herington. Since 1948, the city or an agency of the city has owned the Herington Regional Airport property. In addition to the use of the site by the DOD and the city, the property has been leased to numerous other entities who have used it for industrial purposes.

Starting in 1995, investigations of the former HAAF and the surrounding area have been conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), KDHE, EPA, and Raytheon Aircraft Company. Several volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including trichloroethylene (TCE), and vinyl chloride were detected in ground

water as were fuel-related chemicals such as: benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and xylene. Samples taken from residential wells located north and northwest of the site indicated VOC contamination above the EPA health based levels for safe drinking water (maximum contaminant levels). TCE is commonly used as an industrial solvent.

EE/CA PROCESS

The EE/CA process for the Herington Regional Airport north hangar area involved reviewing available site investigations, collecting samples, and conducting a pilot study. After completion of the sampling and pilot study activities, an EE/CA report was prepared. The EE/CA report provides background information on the site, identifies the removal action objectives, reviews potential cleanup alternatives, and recommends a final response action alternative.

The EE/CA and supporting documents are available for public viewing at the Herington Public Library. EPA accepted written comments on the EE/CA report for a period of 30 days, starting September 4, 2003. EPA received comments on the EE/CA and prepared a response to these comments. Both the comments on the EE/CA and EPA's response to these comments are available at the Herington Library.

EPA prepared an Action Memorandum which is the document EPA used to select the response action alternative for the contaminated soil at the north hangar.

EPA selected excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil within an engineered disposal cell as the alternative to address the contaminated soil in the north hangar area. This alternative is described in the EE/CA.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Depending on a number of factors, it is anticipated that the removal action will begin in 2004.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Information on the investigation and other activities at the Herington Regional Airport is available for public viewing at the:

Herington Public Library
102 S. Broadway
Herington, Kansas
(758) 258-2011

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

Jan Lambert, EPA Region 7
Community Involvement Coordinator
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
1-913-551-7003
Toll-free: 1-800-223-0425
E-mail: lambert.janette@epa.gov