



Region 7

Iowa
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Fact Sheet

June 2003

Five-Year Review Completed **Des Moines TCE Superfund Site, Des Moines, Iowa**

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts regular five-year reviews on certain Superfund sites, where contaminants remain at levels that prevent unrestricted use of the property. This is required by the Superfund law [42 U.S.C. § 9621(c)]. The EPA conducts these five-year reviews to make sure the cleanup continues to protect human health and the environment.

The Des Moines TCE Superfund Site is located in the south-central portion of the city of Des Moines, adjacent to the Raccoon River. The site consists of an area of groundwater contamination and soil contamination on the Dico, Inc. property.

EPA Region 7 recently completed its third five-year review for the Des Moines TCE site in Des Moines, Iowa. Based on an evaluation of available information, EPA believes the cleanup actions conducted at the Des Moines TCE site continue to be protective.

BACKGROUND

The primary contaminant in groundwater at the site is trichloroethylene (TCE), a chemical solvent used as a degreaser in industrial facilities. The contamination was discovered in the 1970's when TCE was found to be present in the Des Moines public water supply. Studies showed the main source of contamination was the Dico facility, where TCE was used in manufacturing and chemical distribution operations. Environmental

studies conducted at the Dico facility showed soil and groundwater containing high levels of TCE and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs), as well as surface soils containing pesticides, herbicides, and metals.

To address the environmental problems at the site, a number of cleanup actions were completed. The cleanup actions conducted at the site included:

- installation of a groundwater extraction and treatment system;
- groundwater monitoring;
- construction of an asphalt cap over contaminated areas of the Dico property; and
- decontamination of several of the onsite buildings.

Operation and maintenance activities are being conducted in order to ensure the cleanup actions remain effective.

FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

The EPA considered a significant amount of information before concluding the cleanup actions remain protective of human health and the environment. Annual performance reports, groundwater monitoring reports, and inspection reports developed over the last five years were reviewed. In addition, a site inspection was conducted in October 2002.

The groundwater extraction and treatment system is successfully controlling movement of the contaminated groundwater and is protecting the public water supply. The asphalt cap continues

to prevent exposures to the contaminated surface soils and reduces infiltration of precipitation. Long term protectiveness of the cleanup actions will continue to be verified through routine inspections, maintenance activities, and sampling.

The EPA will conduct another five-year review in 2008, in accordance with the Superfund law.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The EPA encourages community members to review the Five-Year Review Report for the Des Moines TCE site at the following information repositories, during normal business hours:

Des Moines Public Library	EPA Record Center
100 Locust Street	901 N. 5 th Street
Des Moines, Iowa	Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions or need more information on the Des Moines TCE site or the five-year review process, please contact:

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