



Region 7

Iowa
Kansas
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Fact Sheet

March 2004

Geoprobe® Sampling of Ground Water to Begin Second Street Subsite, Hastings Ground Water Contamination Site, Hastings, NE

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 will begin a field investigation regarding ground water contamination at the Second Street Subsite in Hastings, Nebraska, part of the Hastings Groundwater Contamination Site in Hastings, Nebraska. This field investigation will begin the week of March 15, 2004, and will take approximately four weeks to complete.

BACKGROUND

The Second Street Subsite is located on the eastern edge of the central downtown area of Hastings, beginning near the southeast corner of Second Street and Minnesota Avenue. From there, the affected area generally follows the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks eastward to Elm Avenue.

From the late 1800s to 1931, a manufactured gas plant (MGP) operated in this area, producing gas for household heating, cooking, and lighting. As part of this process, by-products (primarily coal tar) were produced and disposed of on-site and now contaminate the soil and ground water.

The main contaminants, which are generally found in coal gas wastes, are benzene, ethyl benzene, toluene, xylenes (BTEXs), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Over the years,

the contaminants have moved with the ground water to the east of the subsite. This mass of contaminants in the ground water is called a plume.

FIELD INVESTIGATION

Representatives for EPA will be conducting field work in this area for approximately four weeks. The purpose of the field work is to better define locations affected by the ground water contaminant plume. The areas to be sampled are located east of Pine along the Burlington Northern Railroad Right-of-Way.

The ground water samples will be collected using a Geoprobe®. The Geoprobe® is mounted to an all-terrain vehicle, and pushes five-foot long sections of pipe into the ground to collect soil and ground water samples. After the sampling is completed, the holes will be plugged with a clay mixture. This equipment can be utilized as a substitute for installing ground water monitoring wells. EPA will also have a mobile laboratory onsite to analyze samples.

The sampling is expected to take about eight hours at each location. EPA is coordinating the field activities with the City of Hastings engineering department.

EPA will use the information collected to prepare a Remedial Design intended to enhance natural biodegradation of contaminants in the ground water, as part of the initial phase of remedial actions at the Subsite.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information about the Hastings Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site, please contact either of the following:

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