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## Region 7

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## Fact Sheet

March 2004

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### **Five-Year Review Begins Missouri Electric Works Superfund Site, Cape Girardeau, Missouri**

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts regular five-year reviews on certain Superfund sites, as required by the Superfund law [42 U.S.C. § 9621(c)]. EPA Region 7 and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) have started their first five-year review of the Missouri Electric Works Superfund site, 824 South Kingshighway, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Before remedial actions began, the site posed a potential threat to public health through:

- direct contact with contaminated soils or building surfaces and
- the potential migration of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and chlorobenzenes into the surrounding groundwater.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The site was operated by Missouri Electric Works, Inc. (MEW) which conducted a motor and transformer sales and repair business there from 1954 until 1992. Transformers were stored on the site and PCB contaminated oils and other fluids were disposed of there.

EPA discovered the PCB contamination of site soils in 1984. Investigations into the nature and extent of the contamination were performed between 1984 and 1990.

In 1988, EPA issued an Administrative Order to MEW. It required MEW to:

- install barriers across drainage features to stop the movement of PCBs from the site via storm water runoff, and
- stop accepting oil-filled equipment with PCB concentrations greater than 2 parts per million (ppm).

In 1988, a group of potentially responsible parties (PRPs), acting under an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC), performed the final investigations of the soil. These investigations evaluated the extent and magnitude of PCB contamination on the site. The highest PCB contamination concentration found in site soils was 58,000 ppm, which represents a significant threat to human health and the environment. Ground water contaminated with chlorobenzene was also detected on the site.

A Record of Decision (ROD) issued in September 1990 identified the following preferred technologies to address the site cleanup:

- on-site thermal incineration for the cleanup of the contaminated soils, and
- a pump and treat system to treat the contaminated ground water.

In 1991, EPA, MDNR, and a group of PRPs negotiated the terms of a Consent Decree to address contamination at the site. The Consent Decree was lodged in Federal District Court in June 1992 and became effective in March 1998, after two appeals.

In 1995, EPA issued an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) which allowed for the on-site thermal treatment of contaminated soils (including both incineration and thermal desorption).

The remedial action to address the soil contamination began on June 9, 1999, by the Missouri Electric Works Site Trust Donors' (MEWSTD) contractor, Williams Environmental of Stone Mountain, Georgia. The work during this remedial action included:

- the excavation of contaminated soil, then stockpiling those materials on-site to await thermal desorption,
- treatment of over 30,000 tons of contaminated soils using thermal desorption technology,
- backfilling excavated areas with clean soils and treated soils (tested to make sure they met cleanup standards),
- establishing a vegetative cover over the area, and
- installation of materials to inhibit development of erosion features.

Groundwater monitoring and investigation has indicated contamination of the groundwater. Institutional controls, including deed restrictions, are being considered to protect human health and the environment as well as any future purchasers of the site.

### **The Five-Year Review**

During the five-year review, EPA and MDNR will inspect the site and study site information to make sure the remedy continues to be protective of human health and the environment. We encourage the community to tell us about site conditions or concerns you may have.

At the end of the review, a final report will be prepared and will be available in the site information repositories.

### **Additional Information**

Detailed site information can be found in

the Missouri Electric Works Administrative Record, housed at the following locations:

Cape Girardeau Public Library  
711 N. Clark Street  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

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

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, KS 66101  
Phone: 913-551-7003  
Toll Free: (800) 223-0425  
E-mail: [hirter.fritz@epa.gov](mailto:hirter.fritz@epa.gov)