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Fact Sheet

March 2004

Plans for Building Dismantlement Continue

PCB Treatment, Inc. Superfund Site (PTI), Kansas City, Missouri

SITE UPDATE

In December 2003, contractors completed the removal of hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste and containerized wastes (liquids) remaining from the former Rosse Lithography operation. All materials were disposed of in accordance with state and federal requirements.

Draft design documents for the building dismantlement were submitted by the Steering Committee, made up of former PTI customers, and are currently under review by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The design documents describe the overall approach to the controlled dismantlement of the building.

This approach is being carefully developed to ensure public safety throughout the removal process, controlling the physical and contamination-related hazards associated with dismantling a building in a populated area. Information on the specific procedures will be available when detailed proposals have been reviewed and a contractor has been selected to implement the removal activities.

Mobilization of contractor personnel may begin as early as Summer 2004, with removal activities commencing in late summer or fall. Once initiated, removal activities could be completed in about six to eight months.

Between 1987 and 1991, the building owner made several unsuccessful attempts to decontaminate the Wyandotte building. Those efforts generated 42 drums of decontamination waste residue that remain on the third floor of the building. EPA is working with the Steering Committee to dispose of these materials prior to dismantlement of the building. These materials contain some level of PCBs, and are being characterized for disposal purposes by the Steering Committee. Once characterized, these materials will be removed from the building and disposed of appropriately at an off-site facility.

Planned activities at the site include the construction of a temporary security fence surrounding the building to protect the public and prevent unauthorized access to areas near the building. Pieces of brick, mortar, and concrete continue to fall from the deteriorating walls of the structure. Security fence construction should begin within two weeks.

BACKGROUND

PCB Treatment Inc. (PTI) began operations at 2100 Wyandotte Street, Kansas City, Missouri in 1982. A portion of the operation moved to 45 South Ewing Street, Kansas City, Kansas in 1984. Initial operations included decommissioning and storage of PCB-containing items. PCB oils and PCB-contaminated components were shipped offsite for incineration. Reusable metal

was salvaged. PTI also performed a de-chlorination process for PCB-contaminated oils.

PTI operated from 1982 until 1987, authorized by EPA under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Decommissioning and PCB removal activities were terminated in 1987, after TSCA authorizations were not renewed by EPA. Between 1987 and 1991, the owner of the facilities attempted different methods to decontaminate the buildings. None of these attempts were successful at reducing PCB concentrations to required levels.

PTI operated on the first, third, sixth, and seventh floors of the seven-story 2100 Wyandotte facility. The more than 1,500 customers of PTI included the federal government, rural electric cooperatives, utility companies, cities, states, and large and small businesses.

Site investigations have concluded that portions of floors and walls remain PCB-impacted in excess of acceptable levels. Soils adjacent to the facility were also found to contain PCBs.

During November and December 2003, workers removed materials abandoned by the former Rosse Lithography operation. Most of these materials consisted of pallets of paper, business records, trash, and other solid waste. Several containers of solvents and chemicals associated with the former printing operation that required special handling were also removed.

SUPERFUND INVOLVEMENT

The PTI Site was referred to the EPA Superfund program in 1995. Superfund is the federal program with authority over the cleanup of abandoned and uncontrolled hazardous waste sites throughout the country.

Under the Superfund law, EPA is able to require those parties deemed responsible for the site contamination to perform cleanup work at the site. Responsible parties at the PTI site include owners, operators, and transporters and generators that sent hazardous materials to the facilities for treatment or disposal.

In accordance with the EPA agreement for the Site, the selected remedy will be implemented by the Steering Committee with the oversight of the EPA and state agencies. The Steering Committee consists of eleven customers of the now defunct PTI Corporation who have agreed to perform the cleanup work.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

EPA encourages community members to review the Administrative Record for the site. Documents related to the facility, including design documents for the building removal, will be made available by EPA as part of the Administrative Record. The Administrative Record is available for public review at the following locations during normal business hours:

Kansas City, Kansas
Main Public Library
625 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas

Kansas City, Missouri
Main Public Library
Government Documents
311 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri

EPA Region 7
Records Center
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas

Additional information is also available on EPA's website:
http://www.epa.gov/region7/news_events/

If you have additional questions about this fact sheet or the Site, please contact:

Beckie Himes
Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
913-551-7003
Fax: 913-551-7066
E-mail: himes.beckie@epa.gov

Bob Feild
Project Coordinator
EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
913-551-7697
Fax: 913-551-9697
E-mail: feild.robert@epa.gov

Pauletta France-Isetts
Remedial Project Manager
EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
913-551-7701
Fax: 913-551-9701
E-mail: france-isetts.pauletta@epa.gov

Toll-free 1-800-223-0425
(in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)