



Region 7

Iowa
Kansas
Missouri
Nebraska

Fact Sheet

September 2004

Subslab Gas Investigation Alcoa Site, Riverdale, Iowa

INTRODUCTION

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been working with Alcoa to evaluate the migration of chemical vapors from below the ground surface and potentially originating from the Alcoa property. Recent information indicates that elevated levels of certain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are present beneath two homes on South Bellingham Road (226 and 240 S. Bellingham Road). Alcoa owns these two houses.

EPA is working to investigate and consider possible response actions to address the soil vapors under these two houses and potentially other homes on Bellingham Street. EPA will work with Alcoa to investigate homes adjacent to Alcoa's property to determine the appropriate next steps. These next steps might include further sampling and possible installation of ventilation systems in homes.

Ventilation systems similar to those used to address radon gas have been used to address vapor intrusion in houses at other similar sites. Such systems are designed to and have been successfully able to ventilate indoor air to the outside.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Alcoa facility is adjacent to the Mississippi River and sits on about 460

acres in Riverdale, near the Quad Cities. The Alcoa facility is bounded on the north by State Route 67, on the south by the Mississippi River, on the east by the Riverside Power Plant, and on the west by a petroleum storage facility and houses located along South Bellingham Street. PCE (tetrachloroethylene) storage tanks are located at the west end of the Alcoa facility, near South Bellingham Street.

ABOUT THE CONTAMINATION

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), include tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE), 1,2 dichloroethylene (DCE), and vinyl chloride. These VOCs have been used as degreasing agents at the Alcoa facility (e.g. PCE, TCE) or are breakdown products of PCE and TCE. Concentrations of PCE and related compounds were found in vapors beneath the houses sampled.

OTHER SITE ACTIVITIES

EPA also continues to work on addressing ground water issues at the Alcoa facility, as discussed at EPA's public meeting held on August 19, 2004. This meeting was held to present EPA's proposed plan for the Remedial Action at the Alcoa plant and Mississippi River Pool 15 sites.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Administrative Record is available to the public during normal business hours at the Bettendorf Public Library, 2950 Learning Campus Drive, Bettendorf, Iowa. Questions about the Site or this Fact Sheet should be directed to:

Beckie Himes, Community Involvement
Coordinator
Office of External Programs
U.S. EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
913-551-7003 or toll-free 1-800-223-0425
himes.beckie@epa.gov