



## Region 7

Iowa  
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# Fact Sheet

March 2004

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## Five-Year Review To Begin White Farm Equipment Superfund Site, St. Charles, Iowa

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### Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts regular five-year reviews on Superfund sites where cleanups have been completed. These reviews are required by the Superfund law [42 U.S.C. § 9621(c)]. EPA Region 7 and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) have started their second five-year review of the White Farm Equipment site in Charles City, Floyd County, Iowa.

### Site Background

The site consists of an old sand/gravel quarry where manufacturing wastes were disposed. It occupies approximately 20 acres along the northern border of Charles City. Wetlands border the south and northwest edges of the site.

The city of Charles City draws its drinking water from the aquifer underlying the site. Any runoff from the site flows into the Cedar River, which is used for recreational activities.

Since the early 1900s, tractors and other farm equipment have been manufactured near the disposal site. The White Farm Equipment Company leased the disposal site from the H.E. Construction Company and operated the site until 1980, when it filed for bankruptcy. In late 1986, Allied Products Company purchased the manufacturing operation.

The White Farm Equipment Company generated foundry sand, sludges, and

dust from air pollution control equipment since the 1920s. These manufacturing wastes were disposed at the site from 1971 until White Farm ceased operation in 1980. During that time, the plant disposed of 47,000 cubic yards of sludges and approximately 650,000 cubic yards (weighing at least 6,300 tons) of foundry sands, dust, and other industrial wastes at the site.

Nearby residents complained of dust blowing off the disposal site. Also, in 1986, EPA determined the arsenic, chromium, copper, lead, nickel, zinc, and volatile organic compounds from the former waste disposal practices were contaminating the ground water.

Allied Products Company and the H.E. Construction Company were required to conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) which resulted in EPA's 1990 Record of Decision. The remedy required:

- construction of a compacted soil cap with a vegetative layer, and
- ground water sampling.

In 1991, a Consent Decree was signed by Allied Products, the responsible party. They agreed to design and perform a site cleanup. The construction of the compacted soil and vegetative layer cap began in mid-1994 and construction was completed in 1995.

As outlined in the Consent Decree, Allied Products has done ground water sampling, physical inspections, and performed maintenance of the cap.

## Five-Year Review

The first five-year review was conducted in 1999. The site was found to be protective of human health and the environment.

During this five-year review, EPA and IDNR will inspect the site and study site information to make sure the remedy continues to be protective. We encourage the community to tell us about site conditions or any concerns.

At the end of the review, a final report will be prepared and will be available in the site information repositories. The goal is to complete the review and report in September, 2004.

## Additional Information

Detailed site information is available at the following locations:

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

Charles City Public Library  
106 Milwaukee  
Charles City, Iowa

If you have questions or need more information on the White Farm Equipment Superfund Site or the five-year review process, please contact:

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