



Region 7

Iowa
Kansas
Missouri
Nebraska

Fact Sheet

September 2003

Time-Critical Removal Action Hills Iowa Perchlorate Site

UPDATE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 is scheduled to begin a time-critical removal action at the Hills Iowa Perchlorate Site. The removal action is scheduled to begin the week of September 15, 2003. The proposed removal action is to provide a temporary alternate water supply for residents who have been affected by perchlorate contamination at the site, located in the city of Hills, Johnson County, Iowa.

BACKGROUND

Groundwater contamination at the Hills Iowa Perchlorate site exists due to an unknown source of perchlorate, a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant, which presents an imminent and substantial danger to the public health and welfare of the environment.

The provisional cleanup range for perchlorate is 4 to 18 parts per billion (ppb). It is based on an evaluation of studies that indicate consuming water with perchlorate above these levels or where the water may result in indirect human exposure may pose a risk of adverse health effects.

Occupants of 11 residential homes and 1 business in the Hills, Iowa area are consuming water that exceeds 18 ppb.

RECENT COMMUNICATIONS

- A community meeting was held with the Hills, Iowa community members on August 6, 2003.

- Residents affected by perchlorate were provided sampling results of their properties at the community meeting and by certified mail.
- Residents who are drinking contaminated water above 18 ppb were advised at the community meeting that EPA would be providing bottled water as an interim step, and discussed the potential long-term remedies.
- Residents affected by perchlorate were notified that EPA would return to the community in September to provide bottled water, and to perform another significant sampling effort in the Hills community.

TIME-CRITICAL REMOVAL ACTION

This time-critical removal action will provide bottled water to those persons whose drinking water exceeds 18 ppb, and to certain sub-populations.

These sub-populations include:

- Pregnant women and women of childbearing age whose drinking water is between 4 and 18 ppb of perchlorate, and there are additional aggravating high risk factors, and;
- Those residents whose private drinking water wells are threatened by the advancing perchlorate plume.

Currently, there are an additional 10 homes in Hills that had perchlorate levels

between 4 and 18 ppb. Additional sampling will be conducted to determine if more residents in Hills are drinking water contaminated with perchlorate, or could face the threat of drinking perchlorate-contaminated water above levels of concern.

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This time-critical action will remove the immediate threats posed to those residents currently drinking water contaminated with perchlorate above 18 ppb, or to those certain sub-populations whose drinking water is contaminated with 4 to 18 ppb of perchlorate.

The duration of the removal action is undetermined at this time due to unknown factors.

Workers will be in the community Mondays - Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. We do not anticipate any disruption to normal daily activities.

NEXT STEPS

After sampling is completed and the analytical results have been obtained and reviewed by health officials, additional citizens of Hills may receive bottled water (as an interim measure) and will be included as part of this proposed removal action.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

An Administrative Record file about activities surrounding the Hills Iowa Perchlorate site will be available within two weeks at the following address:

City Hall
Attn: Teresa Volk
201 N. 1st Street
Hills, Iowa 52235

EPA encourages the community to review the Administrative Record file as it becomes available.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact: