

# FACT SHEET



**John Deere - Ottumwa Site  
Ottumwa, Iowa**

**February 2003**

## **Introduction**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts regular five-year reviews, on certain Superfund sites, as required by the Superfund law. EPA Region 7 has started its second five-year review of the John Deere - Ottumwa site. The site is bounded by the Wabash Railroad tracks on the west, Highway 63/34 on the east, and Vine Street on the north.

The EPA is doing the five-year review to make sure the cleanup continues to protect human health and the environment.

A single disposal area of approximately 20 acres was determined to exist on-site, with the depth of waste material ranging between four and ten feet. Waste material consists of amber to black colored sand that is easily crumbled and hardened greenish-yellow material with pieces of wood, coal, metal fragments, and paint chips.

## **Background**

From 1911 through 1973, Deere & Company disposed of plant generated waste on-site by burying the wastes in the soil or burning them on top of the soil. Wastes buried on-site included solvents, paint sludges, heat treating cyanide, heat treating sludges, petroleum distillates, and foundry sand.

In May 1985, EPA conducted a Site Investigation and in 1990, Geraghty & Miller, on behalf of Deere & Company,

completed sampling and testing associated with the development of a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The investigations concluded that ground water, surface water, and sediment contamination posed no significant threat to human health and no remedial actions were necessary to protect people and the environment. To address potential threats posed by waste and soil contamination, institutional controls were selected to restrict contact with the site. These include perpetual maintenance of the existing eight-foot-high chain link fence topped with barbed wire, and lodging of deed restrictions preventing development of residences or other exposure situations on-site in the future.

## **National Priorities List (NPL) Details**

Inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL) is one of the basic steps in the Superfund cleanup process. Sites which appear to present a significant threat to human health and the environment are identified and ranked to be included on the NPL.

A site may be deleted from the NPL when the remedy is completed, the contaminants contained, and no further response is required.

The John Deere-Ottumwa site was placed on the NPL February 21, 1990. The deletion announcement was published in the Federal Register on November 22, 2000.

## **For More Information**

During the review, EPA studies information on the site, and inspects the site to make sure it continues to be safe. We encourage the community to tell us about site conditions or concerns you may have.

Detailed site information can be found at the following locations:

Ottumwa	
Public Library	EPA Record Center
102 W. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street	901 N. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street
Ottumwa, Iowa	Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions or need more information on the John Deere - Ottumwa site or the Five-Year Review process, please contact:

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