



Region 7

Iowa
Kansas
Missouri
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Fact Sheet

May 2003

Five-Year Review Begins **Mid-America Tanning Superfund Site, Sergeant Bluff, Iowa**

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts regular five-year reviews on certain Superfund sites, as 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 first five-year review of the Mid-America Tanning Superfund site near Sergeant Bluff, Iowa. The site is located in Woodbury County, Iowa, approximately 10 miles south of Sioux City and about 6 miles south of Sergeant Bluff.

Before remedial actions began, the site posed a potential threat to public health through direct contact with:

- contaminated soils,
 - building surfaces, and
 - impoundments,
- and through potential migration of chromium into the surrounding groundwater.

BACKGROUND

The site is a former leather tannery which operated from 1970 to 1989. Process wastewater containing chromium was discharged to on-site surface impoundments. Chromium contaminated sludge accumulated at the bottom of the surface impoundments and was disposed of on-site in trenches and in surface soil. When the facility ceased operations in 1989, there were an estimated 5,000 gallons of chromium tanning solution on the site along with 525 gallons of sulfuric acid used in the tanning process.

EPA initiated a removal action in 1990, which included:

- excavation and stockpiling of contaminated sludge from the on-site burial trenches,
- containment and treatment of chromium tanning solutions,
- containment and neutralization of sulfuric acids, and
- cursory decontamination of the buildings.

In 1994, EPA issued an Administrative Order to Foxley Cattle Company, a Potentially Responsible Party (PRP), to perform a second removal action to address re-contamination concerns. The removal action performed by Foxley was completed in 1995 and consisted of:

- decontaminating buildings,
- removal and disposal of drummed wastes, and
- securing the site buildings and man-holes.

In 1999, EPA conducted the final remedial action at the site. The work included:

- the excavation of contaminated soil, sediment, and sludge, then placing those materials in landfill areas,
- treatment of free wastewaters located in several site impoundments,
- installation of floating geosynthetic covers on existing site lagoons,
- decontamination by steam cleaning of selected site facilities, and
- installation of chain link fencing.

Groundwater monitoring showed no contamination of the groundwater. Institutional controls including deed

restrictions were put into place to protect any future purchasers of the site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

At the end of the review, a final report will be prepared and will be available in the site information repositories.

Detailed site information can be found at the following locations:

City Hall	EPA Record Center
401 Fourth Street	901 North 5 th Street
Sergeant Bluff, IA	Kansas City, KS

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

Fritz Hirter
Office of External Programs
U.S. EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101
Phone: 913-551-7003 or
Toll Free: 1-800-223-0425
E-mail: hirter.fritz@epa.gov