



Region 7

Iowa
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Fact Sheet

October, 2003

Record of Decision for Interim Remedial Action

Railroad Avenue Superfund Site Northern Plume, West Des Moines, Iowa

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for an Interim Remedial Action that addresses ground water contamination by hazardous substances in the Northern Plume of the aquifer at the Railroad Avenue site in West Des Moines, Iowa. This action is being taken under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as the Superfund law.

The EPA Proposed Plan recommended actions that would help to restore contaminated ground water at this site to its beneficial uses by treating the water.

EPA received public comments on the Proposed Plan at a public meeting and through written submissions. Although EPA and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) recommended the proposed action to address the contamination, a final decision was not made until EPA reviewed comments from the public. After the comment period closed, EPA selected an interim remedy and has published a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD includes a summary of EPA's responses to the comments received during the public comment period.

ABOUT THE CONTAMINATION

The contamination at this site consists of tetrachloroethene (PCE); trichloroethene (TCE); cis-1,2-dichloroethene (cis-1,2-DCE); and vinyl chloride (VC). Several potential

source areas for the Northern Plume were investigated; however, a specific source area for the Northern Plume was not identified.

SELECTED REMEDY

EPA's selected interim remedy will use treatment to address the principal threats at the site. The major components of the selected remedy for ground water include:

- Institutional controls - including seeking city well permitting requirements or a protected water source designation, public education, and ground water monitoring to prevent use of contaminated ground water.
- Active restoration of the aquifer by capturing contaminated ground water using existing water supply wells.
- Treatment of extracted contaminated ground water by air stripping at the West Des Moines Water Works and monitoring of the treatment process
- Beneficial use of treated ground water by the West Des Moines Water Works.

This interim remedy addresses only the northern West Des Moines well field area. The EPA will address the final remedy for the rest of the Northern Plume after additional investigations, monitoring of the impact of the pumping under this ROD, and another Feasibility Study.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Record of Decision and other site-related documents provide details of the nature and extent of contamination and the work that has been completed at the site. These documents are part of the Administrative Record File, available at the following locations:

West Des Moines Public Library
4000 George M. Mills Civic Parkway
West Des Moines, Iowa

EPA Region 7
Records Center
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas

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

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