



Region 7

Iowa
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Fact Sheet

December 2004

Second Five-Year Review Begins 10th Street Superfund Site, Columbus, Nebraska

INTRODUCTION

At least every five years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to review cleanup activities at certain Superfund sites to make sure the remedies remain protective of human health and the environment. These reviews are required by the Superfund law [42 U.S.C. § 9621 (c)].

This fact sheet is to inform the public that EPA Region 7 has started the second five-year review of the 10th Street Superfund site in Columbus, Nebraska (Platte County). The first five-year review was completed in February 2000.

SITE BACKGROUND

The 10th Street site is located in the central portion of the city of Columbus and is comprised of two operable units (OUs). OU1 includes an area generally south of the Union Pacific (UP) rail line that crosses the central portion of the city and includes the city's southern municipal well field. OU2 includes an area generally located north of the railroad tracks and south of 25th Street between 16th and 29th Avenues.

The Nebraska Health and Human Services System (NHHSS) discovered trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination of several wells of the City's southern municipal well field during routine sampling in 1984. After additional sampling was conducted by EPA between 1987 and 1990 the site was proposed for listing on the National Priorities List or NPL. Two nearby dry cleaning facilities were identified as the source of the contamination.

In February 1995 EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) that explains the site cleanup. The ROD provided for additional monitoring and continued evaluation of the ground water at the site and recommended that domestic use of ground water be restricted.

The EPA conducted quarterly ground water sampling of the monitoring wells and the city's public water supply wells from July 1997 to April 1998. An additional source area was found to be the contaminated soils and groundwater beneath the One Hour Martinizing facility at 23rd Street and 25th Avenue (OHM). The EPA addressed this by installing an air sparging/soil vapor extraction (AS/SVE)

system to clean up the soil and ground water contamination at the source.

STATUS OF SITE CLEANUP

In September 2001, EPA issued an interim ROD to address a portion of the groundwater contaminant plume at the site. The remedy includes:

- Treatment of contaminated groundwater from municipal well W-1 and the extraction wells, and discharge of treated ground water to surface water via the City's storm sewer system or to the City's distribution system; and
- Continued operation of the soil and ground water treatment system located at 2262 25th Avenue.

Construction of the groundwater extraction wells and treatment system was completed in early 2004 and full operation began in April. EPA, NDEQ, and NHHSS completed their final construction inspection of this system in February 2004. Treated ground water is currently being discharged to the river. However, EPA and the state are working with the city in preparation for delivering the treated water to the municipal water treatment plant. Ground water sampling is ongoing and provides the information necessary to continually monitor performance of the remedy.

The EPA is currently in the process of evaluating alternatives for a final remedy for the site that will address the entire ground water contaminant plume. At the conclusion of this process, the Proposed Plan, that outlines the preferred final remedy, will be presented to the public for comment.

FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

During this review, EPA will inspect the site and study site information to make sure the remedy continues to be protective of human health and the environment. 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 information repositories.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Detailed site information can be found in the 10th Street Site Administrative Record, housed at the following locations:

Columbus Public Library
2504 14th Street
Columbus, Nebraska

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

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

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