



## Region 7

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## Fact Sheet

October 2004

### Record of Decision Signed

Cherokee County Superfund Site, Cherokee County, Kansas  
Operable Unit #06 - Badger, Lawton, Waco, and Crestline Subsites

#### INTRODUCTION

On September 30, 2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for a remedial action at Operable Unit (OU) #06, which includes the Badger, Lawton, Waco, and Crestline Subsites, of the Cherokee County Superfund site. 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 a cleanup approach for addressing the mining waste that impacts the OU#06 subsites.

EPA received public comments on the Proposed Plan at a public meeting and through written submissions. Although EPA and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment 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 a remedy and has published a ROD that includes a summary of EPA's responses to the comments received during the public comment period.

#### BACKGROUND

The Cherokee County Superfund site spans 115 square miles and represents the Kansas portion of the former Tri-State

mining district. The historic mining district encompasses 2,500 square miles in southeast Kansas, northeast Oklahoma, and southwest Missouri. Mining began in Kansas in the 1870s and continued until 1970 using underground room and pillar extraction methods. Sphalerite and galena were the primary zinc and lead ores, respectively, mined from Mississippian age limestone and shale bedrock within the subsites. The site was placed on the National Priorities List in 1983 and many of the operable units and subsites have subsequently been characterized and remediated.

The Cherokee County site is arranged into the following seven operable units (OUs) for administrative efficiency in conducting environmental cleanups: OU#01 Galena Alternate Water Supply; OU#02 Spring River Basin; OU#03 Baxter Springs subsite; OU#04 Treece subsite; OU#05 Galena Groundwater/Surface Water; OU#06 Badger, Lawton, Waco, and Crestline subsites; and OU#07 Galena Residential Soils.

This Record of Decision focuses on OU#06, the Badger, Lawton, Waco, and Crestline subsites that are located in the northern portion of the site.

#### SELECTED REMEDY

EPA's selected remedy (Alternative 4A with an estimated cost of 7 million dollars) appropriately addresses the principal current and potential risks to human health and the environment. The remedy

addresses ecological and human health risks by the remediation of surficial mining wastes and sediments impacted by heavy metals. The major components of the selected remedy for the four subsites (Badger, Lawton, Waco, and Crestline) include the following actions.

- Excavate, consolidate, and/or cap all surficial mining wastes and excavate metals-impacted sediments from subsite streams followed by disposal and capping.
- Utilize subaqueous mine waste disposal to the maximum extent practicable, with the exception of remedial actions at the Badger subsite. For the Badger subsite, excavate mining wastes and dispose of materials in conventional repositories located beyond the limits of the 100-year flood plain of the Spring River.
- Abandon deep wells to prevent cross-contamination between the shallow and deep aquifers.
- Characterize and monitor the groundwater flow system for assessment of the subaqueous mine waste disposal components of the remedy.
- Adopt institutional controls for future development as specified in an earlier ROD.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The ROD and other site-related documents provide details of the nature and extent of contamination and the work that is planned for the upcoming remedial action, as well as work that has previously been completed at the site. These documents are part of the Administrative Record available at the following locations during normal business hours:

Columbus Public Library  
205 N. Kansas Avenue  
Columbus, Kansas

EPA Region 7 Records Center  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas

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

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