



Region 7

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Fact Sheet

July 2004

Upcoming Public Meeting about Monitoring Well Installation West Sidney Gas Plant, Sidney, Nebraska

INTRODUCTION

Marathon Oil Co. will be installing a monitoring well in the Sidney community during the week of August 1, 2004. This event is part of an investigation order between the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 and Marathon Oil Co.

Also, EPA will hold a public meeting so community members can learn about the monitoring well installation and other investigation activities. The public meeting will be held on August 2, 2004, at Security First Bank in Sidney. The meeting will be held from 4p.m. to 7p.m. with presentations followed by a question and answer session. It is open to the public.

GOAL OF INVESTIGATION ORDER

Marathon Oil Co. has agreed to define the nature and extent of groundwater

contamination from the former West Sidney Gas Plant, 2829 Road 111, about five miles southwest of Sidney, Nebraska. This investigation will be addressed under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

The investigation will involve sampling, analyzing, and monitoring the groundwater contamination from the facility.

BACKGROUND

Marathon Oil Co. began operating a natural gas processing plant at the facility in 1954. Processes included separation of water and liquid hydrocarbons from natural gas wells. The water and liquid hydrocarbons had to be removed before the natural gas could be used.

Marathon Oil Co. operated surface impoundments at the facility from 1964

PUBLIC MEETING

EPA invites the Sidney community to a public meeting to learn about the monitoring well installation and other investigation activities at the West Sidney Gas Plant:

For Whom: The Sidney community and any other interested person

When: Monday, August 2, 2004, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Where: Security First Bank's Community Room
1205 Jackson Street, Sidney, Nebraska

Who: EPA and Marathon Oil Co. representatives

EPA and Marathon Oil Co. representatives will conduct presentations followed by a question and answer session.

to 1982. Wastes placed in the surface impoundments included waste products that were created during the removal of the water and liquid hydrocarbons from the raw natural gas.

THE CONTAMINATION

While sampling groundwater, EPA personnel observed an oily layer, known as a light, non-aqueous phased liquid layer, on top of the groundwater as it was drawn from the sentinel well. A sentinel well is a well that is placed down-gradient and outside of the contamination plume to help determine if the plume is moving. The thickness of the layer increased to almost two feet several months later.

Marathon Oil Co. has been investigating the contamination from the facility for years. Despite the extensive investigation that has occurred at this facility, EPA determined that the discovery of the oily layer and its increasing thickness warranted further investigation to ensure that it does not pose a threat to down-gradient water supplies. EPA issued an order that requires additional investigation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information, please contact:

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