



Region 7

Iowa
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Fact Sheet

February 2005

Public Meeting with Environmental and Public Health Experts Vickers Inc., Omaha, Nebraska

INTRODUCTION

EPA Region 7 has scheduled a public meeting March 8 to discuss the former Vickers site in Omaha, Neb.

EPA will present information and answer questions that address community members' concerns about their health regarding contamination at the former Vickers site. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

will also conduct presentations and be available to answer questions. The meeting is open to the public.

The former Vickers site, closed since 2000, covers 95 acres of land at 6600 N. 72nd St. It is about two miles south of Interstate 680 at the northwest corner of the intersection of 72nd Street and Crown Point Avenue.

Public Meeting with Environmental and Public Health Experts

For Whom: Omaha community and other interested persons

When: March 8, 2005, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Where: Nathan Hale Middle School Auditorium, 6143 Whitmore St.

Who: EPA and the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry will conduct presentations, followed by a question and answer session.

BACKGROUND

The former Vickers facility produced hydraulic motors and pumps. Manufacturing processes included metal fabrications, milling, finishing, and associated metal cleaning and degreasing operations.

The facility initially built and operated a liquid waste collection system of underground piping and underground storage tanks.

Past site operations have resulted in the contamination of soil and ground water at the site. A dissolved phase ground water plume has migrated to the west of the facility beneath a limited area of a residential area called Still Meadows. Levels of chlorinated solvents in ground water beneath Still Meadows range from non-detect to 850 parts per billion (ppb). The ground water table beneath Still Meadows is at a depth of approximately 15 feet.

EPA collected a series of indoor air samples from several homes in the Still Meadows neighborhood to determine whether solvent vapors were migrating from the contaminated ground water into the residents' homes in 2002. The results of this sampling did not identify a significant health threat to local residents.

THE CONTAMINATION

Sludge, soil, and ground water sampling at the former liquid waste collection system indicated the presence of volatile organic compounds in soil and ground water. The contaminants include:

- trichloroethene (TCE)

- 1,1,1-trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA)
- 1,1-dichloroethene (1,1-DCE)

The primary source of contaminated ground water at the site is considered the liquid waste collection system area.

In December 1992 and January 1993, tanks associated with the liquid waste collection system were emptied, cleaned, filled with concrete slurry, and left in place.

A grid pattern of 31 Geoprobe soil borings in the liquid waste collection system area were installed to gather data to support redevelopment decisions in November 2004. Soil samples collected at various depths detected low levels of site-related compounds and total petroleum hydrocarbons. These data are contained in the document *Soil Contaminant Delineation Results Former Vickers, Inc. Site*. See additional information note below to review this document.

SHORT-TERM CLEANUP ACTIONS

A soil vapor extraction system and a ground water interception/extraction system have been in operation at the site since 1996. The systems were designed to remove residual phase trichloroethene contamination in the soil and to control migration of contaminated ground water.

The systems consist of four soil vapor extraction wells, which remove soil vapor and ground water from the collection system area, and four ground-water interception/extraction wells along the western boundary of the site. An

estimated 29,700 pounds of volatile organic compounds have been removed from the soil and ground water.

Continued operation of the soil vapor extraction system will provide only small amounts of additional contaminant removal and will be discontinued. The ground water interception/extraction system along the western boundary of the site will be expanded by installing additional ground water extraction wells.

SITE REDEVELOPMENT ACTIONS

Representatives of Unisys and Eaton corporations contacted EPA in October 2003 about potential redevelopment of the Vickers property into a shopping center. The corporations asked EPA to provide insight into how potential redevelopment of the property could proceed concurrently with completion of site environmental investigations. This led to development of the document titled *Workplan For Interim Measures Associated With Site Redevelopment, Former Vickers, Inc. Site.*

EPA has asked that the developer address, as part of the construction plans for the site, potential vapor intrusion into buildings that might be built over, or near, the collection system and ground water plume. Plans call for installing a vapor barrier and passive venting system beneath building slabs as a precaution, not because of a known vapor intrusion problem. A vapor intrusion sampling plan will be developed when the type of vapor control measure to be incorporated into the construction is determined.

About 15 feet of soil in the liquid waste collection system area will be removed,

and the tanks will be demolished and/or removed during redevelopment.

Also during redevelopment soil from the liquid waste collection system area that has no detectable concentrations of site-related compounds will be used as fill in other areas of the site. Soil that contains low levels of site-related compounds will be left in the area and capped with asphalt or concrete.

The work plan includes contingencies for addressing additional areas which might be discovered during redevelopment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Copies of work plans and other documents are available for public review at the following location:

Abrahams Branch Public Library
511 N. 90th St.
Omaha, Neb. 68134
(402) 444-6284
Hours of Operation:
Mon., Tues., Thurs., 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Wed., Fri., Sat., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sun., 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Questions about this fact sheet and requests for additional information should be addressed to:

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