

**FINAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN
SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD SOIL CONTAMINATION SITE
SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

Prepared for

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
Region 5 Office of Public Affairs
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This community involvement plan (CIP) was prepared as required under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also referred to as Superfund. The Superfund program provides funding and technical assistance to investigate and clean up hazardous waste sites that pose a risk to public health or the environment. The Superfund program encourages active dialogue between communities affected by the release of hazardous substances and the agencies responsible for carrying out or overseeing remedial actions.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) considers community involvement to be an important part of the Superfund program. U.S. EPA conducts community involvement activities to (1) encourage open lines of communication between residents and the U.S. EPA as well as with local and state government officials; (2) inform communities about the Superfund program, site-specific studies, and the progress of site activities; and (3) involve the public in decision-making processes.

As part of its community involvement efforts, U.S. EPA conducts community assessments for each Superfund site to determine the specific issues and concerns of interest to local residents. Issues and concerns are usually identified through interviews conducted with local residents, community and environmental groups, local officials, and businesses near a particular site. After conducting a community assessment, U.S. EPA prepares a CIP that typically contains site background information, provides names and addresses of key community contacts, summarizes site-related concerns and issues of importance to the local community, and provides an outline of specific community involvement program objectives and activities to address the concerns identified and to keep residents informed throughout the site cleanup process.

The Tetra Tech EM Inc. Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) has prepared this CIP in accordance with the requirements of Technical Direction Document (TDD) No. S05-0404-010, which U.S. EPA assigned to START. The scope of this TDD was to conduct community involvement activities at the South Minneapolis Neighborhood Soil Contamination

Site (the Site) in South Minneapolis, Minnesota. This CIP is based primarily on interviews conducted in February and April 2005 with local residents, local officials, other parties interested in activities at the Site in South Minneapolis, Minnesota. Information received at an informal open house held in April 2005 was also used in preparing this CIP. In addition to this introduction, the CIP contains the following sections:

- **Section 2.0, Site Background** – This section provides an overview of the site’s history and operations, as well as site investigations and cleanup work.
- **Section 3.0, Community Background** – This section provides a profile of the population of South Minneapolis, Minnesota; describes the history of community involvement in the site cleanup; and summarizes community concerns about the site.
- **Section 4.0, Community Involvement Program Objectives** – This section describes site-specific objectives developed in response to identified community concerns.
- **Section 5.0, Community Involvement Activities** – This section discusses specific activities to be conducted to accomplish the objectives identified in Section 4.0.

Appendix A of the CIP provides a schedule of community involvement activities; Appendix B provides contact information for U.S. EPA, elected officials, and the media; and Appendix C lists the locations of the information repositories established for the site.

2.0 SITE BACKGROUND

The CMC Heartland Lite Yard site (plant site) is located on 5 acres at the northwest corner of the intersection of Hiawatha Avenue and 28th Street. Several companies produced pesticides at the plant site from 1938 to 1968. Those responsible for the contamination at the plant site are cleaning it up under MDA supervision.

Following an April 1999 report, the Agency for Toxic Substance Disease Registry, in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Health provided a health consultation in May 2001 expressing concern about the possibility of highly contaminated dust being blown off the plant site and affecting the residential area to the northwest. In June 2001, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and MDH collected a limited a limited number of soil samples from the residential area. Sample results warranted further study of the Site.

In September 2003, MDA collected additional soil samples from the residential area and confirmed that arsenic was present on some properties. In January 2004, the agency asked for help from U.S. EPA in cleaning up the contamination from these properties. The properties are part of what is known as the Site (see figure on page 4).

From May through October 2004, U.S. EPA collected additional soil samples that identified 29 properties with high arsenic concentrations. In a project that began in mid-October and ended December 2, 2004, U.S. EPA workers dug up the soil and took it to an U.S. EPA-approved landfill in Elk River, Minn., for disposal. Clean fill dirt was brought in to replace the contaminated soil.

About 400 homes were tested over the past few years by U.S. EPA and other agencies. In early Spring 2005, U.S. EPA will take additional samples and based on sampling results, will propose a cleanup approach.

U.S. EPA and MDA are working together to get the Site placed on the Superfund National Priorities List. Putting a site on the NPL helps guide U.S. EPA in deciding which sites warrant further investigation.

3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

This section describes the compositions of the South Minneapolis, Minnesota community, the history of community involvement with the Site, and major community concerns in South Minneapolis regarding the site.

3.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE

The city of Minneapolis is the county seat of Hennepin County, Minnesota. It is in the southeast part of the state, adjoining the second-largest city and state capital, St. Paul. Together, the two cities on the Mississippi River are known as the Twin Cities. Minneapolis takes its name from *minne*, the Dakota word for water and *polis*, the Greek word for city. Minneapolis is recognized as a world-class city. Its population of approximately 382,600 makes it the largest city in Minnesota.



Legend

2003 Delta Environmental Sampling

Arsenic in Soil (mg/kg)

▲ 0.0 - 10.0

▲ 10.1 - 25.0

▲ 25.1 - 50.0

▲ 50.1 - 635.8

2001 Department of Agriculture Sampling

Arsenic in Soil (mg/kg)

● 4 - 10

● 11 - 25

● 26 - 50

● 51 - 210

■ Assessment Area

■ Areas of Concern (AOC)

■ Parcel Boundaries

■ START Sampling Parcels



CMC HEARTLAND LITE YARD SITE
MINNEAPOLIS, HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA
TDD NO. S05-0403-007

Figure 2
Proposed START Sampling Locations



Minneapolis has a convoluted set of government entities that oversee actions in the city. The Minneapolis City Council holds the most power and the mayor has some power to appoint certain individuals, including the chief of police. The Minneapolis City Council is composed of 13 single member wards. Minneapolis has a full-service municipal government. The community has its own police; fire; water; wastewater; streets; parks, and recreation; and administrative departments. Minneapolis obtains its water from the Sandusky River and most Minneapolis residents are connected to the city water supplies.

Minneapolis has a large park system consisting of ten square miles of land and water that is interlinked in many places. The Grand Rounds Scenic Byway circles through the city and brings together many of the bigger park areas. One of the most famous parks in Minneapolis is Minnehaha Park.

The main daily newspapers in the area are the *Star Tribune* and *The Pioneer Press*. Weekly media include *City Pages*, *The Pulse of the Twin Cities* and *The Rake*. Radio and television signals are received in Minneapolis.

3.2 HISTORY OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The neighborhood consists of diverse ethnic groups, including, Hmong, Somali, Hispanic, African American, and Native Americans being the most prevalent groups. The neighborhood has a large rental community. Many agree that a health study should be done as the community has faced many environmental problems in the past. Crime and safety issues prevail over environmental issues. Day to day living conditions take top priority. Most interviewees expressed their opinion that all yards should be sampled and also are concerned about how their yards will be put back together if their yard is dug up.

Residents and officials in the East Phillips neighborhood and the city of South Minneapolis, Minnesota have reviewed the site's history, past cleanup activities, a summary of site risks, and U.S. EPA's proposed plan for cleaning up the site. In February and April, 2005, U.S. EPA representatives interviewed several government officials, city representatives and representatives from local neighborhood groups in order to obtain information on the neighborhood and the

CMC Residential Area. U.S. EPA also held an informal open house, during which residents were provided an opportunity to formally express their concern. Questions and concerns articulated during the February and April 2005 interviews and open house are discussed below.

3.3 COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Most residents interviewed stated that while they have some concerns about the arsenic situation, they are most concerned about crime and safety issues in the neighborhood. City officials stated they get more calls concerning crime and drugs in the area than about environmental issues. Day to day living conditions take top priority for the residents. Though many are concerned about the arsenic issue, they have worked through lead contamination problems in the past and feel this is another problem that will get fixed. Residents also expressed that U.S. EPA's presence was welcomed in the neighborhood and most residents believe that they are doing a good job. A suggestion was made to send out a fact sheet or flyer indicating who is responsible for what.

Potential Health Risks Posed by the Site: Many believe that a health study should be done on this community as it has faced many environmental problems in the past, not just the current arsenic problem. There is concern about what the affects are of arsenic. Residents have been told to wear a mask when raking or mowing their lawn, yet their children still play in the dirt. Other residents expressed concern about the affects of arsenic if they have a vegetable garden. One government official believes that those that garden are very concerned about the effects of the arsenic in the soil. She said that some people just don't realize or know or understand how dangerous it is for kids to play in the dirt if it is contaminated. She said numerous rental properties exist where there is just bare dirt and no grass and children play in this dirt.

Property Values and Economic Effects: Property values are also a concern in the neighborhood. Some residents stated that real estate companies are buying properties and building more expensive homes or buildings on the property. The question is will the builders push to get their properties cleaned up first. The area is a largely a rental community; residents who rent in the area are not as concerned about the property values.

Sampling Area: Many of those interviewed expressed their opinion that all yards should be sampled because the one not sampled could have arsenic contamination. Residents would like more information about how it was decided to sample what yards. One local resident said she would like information on how to get her yard cleaned up – she is willing to pay for it herself. Some residents also want to know how the yards will be put back together if their yard is dug up.

Communication with Local Residents: Many suggestions were made by residents and local officials on how to get the information out to the local residents. Documents need to be in English, Somoli and Spanish. Some of the suggestions include the following:

- Putting door hangars on houses has been a successful approach in getting the information out
- Using local neighborhood newspapers, *The Alley*, *La Prensa* (Spanish), *News from Indian Country* (Native American), and *The Warsan Times* (Somoli) were suggested
- Using local cable channels, which have specific ethnic channels
- Having “face” time in the community through public meetings or information sessions
- Contacting leaders of the different ethnic groups to pass information on
- Using East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC) or other neighborhood groups
- Getting on the agenda of local neighborhood group meetings
- Getting information to local churches and hospitals to pass out to residents
- Using the local schools (Aurora Charter, Anderson Elementary, Center School, Abraham Lincoln School) to disseminate information
- Asking store owners (e.g., Village Market) to give flyers to customers, stating “this is important, you want to read”

4.0 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

When establishing the objectives for a site-specific community involvement program, U.S. EPA considers several factors, including federal requirements. Considerations include:

- The nature of the site proposed cleanup plan
- The nature and extent of known or perceived site contaminants

- Known community concerns and requests

In addition, the application of new or innovative cleanup technologies and the level of technical difficulty involved with the cleanup may affect the amount and types of methods used to communicate plans and progress to the community. To be effective, the community involvement program must be designed to (1) meet the community's assumed need to know, (2) provide information in a timely manner, (3) accommodate the community's interest and willingness to participate in decision-making processes, and (4) use a language(s) the public can understand.

To meet the needs of the community and to respond to information obtained during the February and April 2005 community interviews and meet federal requirements, the following objectives have been established for community involvement efforts at the Site:

- Enlist the support and involvement of local officials and community leaders
- Monitor citizen interest in the site and respond accordingly
- Inform the community about the planned and ongoing site activities
- Provide follow-up explanations about technical site activities and findings, including the results of soil sampling and risk assessment studies
- Provide opportunities for public input on key decisions
- Establish a website for the site that will provide updates on site activities
- Provide information to the community about what agency is responsible for what activities concerning the site
- Provide information in English, Spanish and Somali

5.0 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Specific activities will be conducted to meet the objectives listed in Section 4.0 and to respond to information received during the community interviews identified in Section 3.0. Specific activities are described below.

Maintain A Point of Contact: U.S. EPA has established a point of contact, the community involvement coordinator (CIC), for community involvement activities at the South Minneapolis

Neighborhood Soil Contamination Site. The CIC serves as a liaison between the community and U.S. EPA. The current CIC is Cheryl Allen, who can be reached at (312) 353-6196, (800) 621-8431 or allen.cheryl@epa.gov. In addition to the CIC, a technical point of contact, the remedial project manager (RPM), has been established for the site. The RPM is Timothy Prendiville, who can be reached at (312) 886-5122 or prendiville.timothy@epa.gov. U.S. EPA will include contact information on all written information distributed to the community and will notify the community of any contact information changes.

Maintain Communication with Local Officials, Agencies, and Community Residents: U.S. EPA included local officials from Minneapolis, Minnesota and an individual from the Health Department in the February community interviews. U.S. EPA will continue to maintain communication with local officials and agencies throughout the site cleanup activities. U.S. EPA will keep local officials informed of planned and ongoing site activities as well as significant findings during technical site activities. During the interviews, some individuals expressed the need to have site information sent to them on a timely basis. U.S. EPA will continuously update its mailing list, which includes a list of local officials, agencies and current residents, to ensure that the appropriate individuals are kept informed of site-related information. U.S. EPA has established an e-mail distribution list so emails can be sent with site update information. U.S. EPA has also established a website with site-specific information and updates provided.

Update and Maintain the Site Mailing List: A mailing list of local residents, organizations, businesses, and officials has been established for the site. This list is used for mailing fact sheets, site updates, invitations to public meetings and events, and other site-related information to the community. As such, it will be updated regularly to reflect address changes and changes in elected officials as well as to add new residents and others interested in site activities. If new housing developments are constructed in areas surrounding the site as a result of ongoing recent economic development, the addresses of residents in these developments will be obtained and added to the mailing list.

Prepare and Distribute Site-Related Information: Fact sheets, letters, and site updates produced in target languages summarizing current information about the site and describing

upcoming activities will be prepared and distributed to those on the site mailing list. Documents announcing public comment periods or other opportunities for public involvement will be distributed well in advance to give local residents sufficient time to plan participation. Timely, regular dissemination of information will also help alleviate residents' feelings of being overwhelmed by receiving large amounts of technical information. Copies of written information will also be sent to the site information repositories.

Conduct Public Meetings and Information Sessions: Public meetings are typically held to communicate information and to solicit questions and input from the community. The purpose of the meeting should dictate the forum. For example, achievement of certain project milestones or discovery of new information may warrant a more formal public meeting with presentations of technical information by U.S. EPA personnel. On the other hand, information sessions may be needed to keep the community informed of site progress, answer resident questions about ongoing work, and obtain information about the resident perceptions and concerns. All meetings will be advertised in a local newspaper, such as the *Star Tribune* at least 1 week prior to the meeting.

Develop and Distribute News Releases: U.S. EPA will prepare and release statements to the news media to announce significant site investigation findings, completion of major milestones, significant scheduling information, and other pertinent site-related information. News releases can be a very effective tool for quickly getting information to large numbers of people.

Conduct a Program Evaluation: This CIP was designed to consider site- and community-specific factors as well as to comply with federal requirements. Community concerns, the objectives of the community involvement program for the site, and specific activities to address these concerns in this CIP were based to a large extent on information obtained during interviews conducted in February and April 2005 with local residents and officials. U.S. EPA recognizes that changes in areas such as community perceptions, information needs, and population demographics can occur over time and that such changes may necessitate a revised approach to conducting community involvement activities to meet the current needs of the community. For this reason as well as to determine whether the activities in this plan are achieving their intended

objectives, periodic reviews will be conducted to determine whether additional activities are warranted or whether changes to current methods of implementing the activities outlined in this plan are necessary.

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APPENDIX A
SCHEDULE OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES
(One Page)

SCHEDULE OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES						
Community Involvement Activity	Site Activities					
	Proposed Cleanup Plan	Removal Design 50% Complete	Removal Design 100% Complete	Removal Action Status	Removal Action 50% Complete	Removal Action 100% Complete
Maintain communication with local officials, agencies, and community residents	Ongoing throughout					
Update and maintain the site mailing list	As appropriate throughout					
Prepare and distribute site-related information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct information sessions		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Develop and distribute news releases	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct a program evaluation			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Note:

= Occurrence of community involvement activity

APPENDIX B
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
CONTACTS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, LOCAL OFFICIALS,
AND MEDIA CONTACTS

(Three Pages)

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CONTACT INFORMATION

A. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Project Responsibilities

Cheryl Allen (312) 353-6196
Community Involvement Coordinator allen.cheryl@epa.gov
U.S. EPA (P-19J)
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Timothy Prendiville (312) 886-5122
Remedial Project Manager prendiville.timothy@epa.gov
U.S. EPA (SR-6J)
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

B. Federal Elected Officials

Governor Tim Pawlenty (651) 296-3391
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

C. State Elected Officials

Senator Linda Berglin (651) 296-4261
309 State Capitol Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Karen Clark (651) 296-0294
303 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

D. Local Officials

Mayor R. T. Rybak (612) 673-2100
Ward 1, Council Member Paul Ostrow
Ward 2, Council Member Paul Zerba
Ward 3, Council Member Donald Samuels
Ward 4, Council Member Barbara Johnson
Ward 5, Council Member Natalie Johnson Lee
Ward 6, Council Member Dean Zimmerman
Ward 7, Council Member Lisa Goodman
Ward 8, Council Member Robert Lilligren
Ward 9, Council Member Gary Schiff
Ward 10, Council Member Dan Niziolek

Ward 11, Council Member Scott Benson
Ward 12, Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy
Ward 13, Council Member Barret Lane

City Hall
350 S 5th Street Room 307
Minneapolis, MN 55415

E. State and Local Agencies

City of Minneapolis (651) 673-5807
Environmental Services
250 S. 4th Street, Room 414
Public Service Center
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Gayle Prest
Tom Frame

Minnesota Department of Agriculture
90 West Plato Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55107

Robert Anderson (651) 297-5731
Cathy Villas-Horns

F. Newspapers

Star Tribune (612) 673-4000
425 Portland Ave.
Minneapolis MN 55488

The Circle (Native American)
1508 E Franklin #102
Minneapolis, MN 55406

La Prensa (Hispanic Newspaper) (612) 312-1760
3000 N. Second St.
Minneapolis, MN 55411

The Warsaw Times (Somoli Newspaper)
P.O. Box 6641
Minneapolis, MN

G. Radio Stations

WCCO 830AM (“The Good Neighbor”, talk) (612) 339-4444
90 South 11th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55403

KSTP 1500AM (talk) (651) 646-8255
3415 University Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55114

H. Television Stations

Minneapolis Television Network (MTN) (612) 331-8575
125 S. E. Main Street, Room 241
Minneapolis, MN 55414

KTCA Channel 2 (651) 222-1717
172 East 4th Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

KMSP Channel 9 (952) 944-9999
11358 Viking Drive
Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344

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APPENDIX C
INFORMATION REPOSITORIES
(One Page)

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Minneapolis Public Library
East Lake Branch
2727 E. Lake Street
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Green Institute
Corrie Zoll, Greenspace Partners
2801 21st Ave South, Suite 110
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Sustainable Resources Association
Megan Curran
1916 2nd Ave. S
Minneapolis, MN 55406