



Region 7

Iowa
Kansas
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Fact Sheet

December 2003

Second Five-Year Review to Begin Big River Sand Superfund Site, Wichita, Kansas

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts regular five-year reviews on certain Superfund sites, as required by the Superfund law [42 U.S.C. § 9621(c)]. EPA Region 7 has started its second five-year review of the Big River Sand site. The site is located in the south half of Section 2, Township 27 South, Range 1 West, in Sedgwick County, Kansas.

Background

During the early 1970s, approximately 2,000 drums of paint-related wastes were disposed of on the site adjacent to a five-acre sand quarry lake. In 1978, the owner sold about 80 acres of his property which included the quarry lake and drum storage area, to the Big River Sand Company. In 1982, under the sales agreement and a court order, the previous owner started to move the drums to his side of the property. Nearly 200 barrels were transferred before the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) stopped the action because the previous owner did not have a permit to store or dispose of the waste.

The State's intervention in 1982 showed drums on site were damaged, corroded, and leaking. Waste solvents and paint sludges from several drums contained metals (including arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, and selenium) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) (including toluene, ethyl benzene, and trichloroethylene) which were flammable.

Site Cleanup

In September 1982, KDHE issued an order to the previous owner to conduct cleanup of surface contamination. This cleanup was completed in 1984.

Approximately 40 cubic yards of hazardous paint sludge were removed and disposed of at USPCI hazardous waste landfill in Oklahoma. About 10,000 gallons of solvent from over 2,000 drums found at the site were recycled by Pratt and Lambert in Andover, Kansas. Non-hazardous material was disposed of at the Wichita Brooks Landfill.

Between 1982 and 1985, KDHE sampled soils, the quarry lake, and nearby residential drinking water wells. The State also installed and sampled onsite monitoring wells. The residential wells showed concentrations of arsenic, lead, and selenium that were greater than the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) established by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The site was proposed for the NPL in October 1984, and in May 1986 was placed on the NPL.

Remedial investigations (RIs) were conducted by EPA in 1986 and 1987. Based on the information and data collected during the RIs, EPA and the State determined the site does not pose a threat to the community or the environment since cleanup actions and natural processes have reduced contaminant levels.

In a Record of Decision (ROD) signed in June, 1988, EPA and the State determined no further action was necessary. The site was deleted from the NPL in October, 1992.

People using private wells in the area for drinking water should be aware the natural levels of iron, manganese, and selenium might be higher than the State and Federal standards recommend.

The Five-Year Review

During the second five-year 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 concerns you may have.

For More Information

Detailed site information can be found at the following locations:

Sedgwick County
Public Library
Main Branch EPA Records Center
223 South Main St. 901 N. 5th Street
Wichita, Kansas Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions or need more information on the Big River Sand site or the Five-Year Review process, please contact:

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