



Region 7

Iowa
Kansas
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Fact Sheet

July 2004

Second Five-Year Review Completed Chemplex Superfund Site, Clinton, Iowa

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts regular five-year reviews on certain sites as required by Superfund law [42 U.S.C. § 9621(c)].

EPA Region 7 conducted the second five-year review of the Chemplex site to make sure the remedies remain protective of human health and the environment.

Site Background

The Chemplex facility was constructed in 1967 and has been in operation since then. Equistar Chemicals, LP, is the current operator. The facility manufactures high and low-density polyethylene plastics from chemical stock.

Due to past waste disposal practices, ground water and soil contamination has occurred. The contaminants of concern are volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). EPA designated the Chemplex site cleanup into two distinct phases or operable units (OUs).

Current Progress

The first phase of the cleanup (OU 1) addressed contaminated ground water. The ground water extraction and treatment system has been constructed and is currently operating.

The second phase of the cleanup (OU 2) addressed contaminated soils and wastes on the site. The soil caps and vegetative covers were installed and the soil vapor

extraction (SVE) system was constructed and operated for more than 4 years until cleanup objectives were reached.

The Five-Year Review

During the review, EPA studied information on the site to ensure that the OU 1 and OU 2 remedies continue to be protective. The five-year review finds that the remedies remain protective of human health and the environment. Although the ground water contaminant plume extends to some extent on downgradient property, the plume is well defined and no one is currently drinking ground water from the site above safe levels.

Because hazardous substances remain on site, additional five year reviews will be required. The next review is scheduled to be conducted in 2008.

Additional Information

The five-year review report can be reviewed at the following locations:

EPA Records Center
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas

Camanche Public Library
Head Librarian
102 12th Avenue
Camanche, Iowa

Clinton Public Library
Head Librarian
306 8th Avenue, South
Clinton, Iowa

This five-year review report may also be accessed at the following web address:

<http://www.epa.gov/region07/superfund/index.htm> (Under the heading of FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORTS).

If you have questions or need additional information on the Chemplex site of the five-year review process, please contact:

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