



## Region 7

Iowa  
Kansas  
Missouri  
Nebraska

## Fact Sheet

June 2004

### Proposed Plan Available for Comments

Cherokee County Superfund Site, Cherokee County, Kansas  
Operable Unit #06 - Badger, Lawton, Waco, and Crestline Subsites

#### INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing a Proposed Plan for a remedial action at Operable Unit (OU) #06, which includes the Badger, Lawton, Waco, and Crestline Subsites, of the Cherokee County Superfund site. The action will be taken under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, also known as the Superfund Law.

The EPA Proposed Plan recommends a cleanup approach for addressing the mining waste that impacts the OU#06 subsites.

EPA is asking for public comments on its Proposed Plan. The public comment period runs **June 7 - July 6, 2004**. Although EPA and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) are recommending a proposed action to address the contamination, a final decision will not be made until EPA reviews comments from the public. After the comment period closes, EPA will make a decision, which will be published in a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will also include a summary of EPA's responses to the comments received during the public comment period.

#### BACKGROUND

The Cherokee County Superfund site spans 115 square miles and represents the Kansas portion of the former Tri-State

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS -

EPA will hold a **public meeting** to provide information and accept comments on the Proposed Plan. The public meeting will be held:

**Tuesday, June 22, 2004**

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Cherokee County Health Department  
110 East Walnut Street  
Columbus, Kansas**

For more information, please contact:

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mining district. The historic mining district encompasses 2,500 square miles in southeast Kansas, northeast Oklahoma, and southwest Missouri. Mining began in Kansas in the 1870s and continued until 1970 using underground room and pillar extraction methods. Sphalerite and galena were the primary zinc and lead ores, respectively, mined from Mississippian age limestone and shale bedrock within the subsites. The site was placed on the National Priorities List in

1983 and many of the operable units and subsites have subsequently been characterized and remediated.

The Cherokee County site is arranged into the following seven operable units (OUs) for administrative efficiency in conducting environmental cleanups: OU#01 Galena Alternate Water Supply; OU#02 Spring River Basin; OU#03 Baxter Springs subsite; OU#04 Treece subsite; OU#05 Galena Groundwater/Surface Water; OU#06 Badger, Lawton, Waco, and Crestline subsites; and OU#07 Galena Residential Soils.

This Proposed Plan focuses on OU#06, the Badger, Lawton, Waco, and Crestline subsites that are located in the northern portion of the site.

## **POTENTIAL REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVES**

The potential remedial alternatives are:

**Alternative 1: No Further Action** - The National Contingency Plan requires consideration of a no further action alternative against which other alternatives can be compared. This alternative includes water quality monitoring and institutional controls.

**Alternative 2: Water Management and Erosion Controls** - Includes the actions described in Alternative 1 and also addresses surface water and sediment Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs) by implementing engineering drainage, water management, and erosion controls in addition to excavation and on-site containment (consolidation and capping) of selected source materials (mill wastes and sediments) in order to reduce metal and sediment loads to classified perennial streams and rivers with a secondary goal being the reduction of loads to ephemeral tributaries.

**Alternative 3** - Alternative 3 was not carried forward in the prior Feasibility Study process and is excluded as a potential remedial alternative.

**Alternative 4: Source Removal and Subsidence Pit Disposal** - Includes the actions described by Alternatives 1 and 2 and expands the cleanup to include all mill wastes and channel sediments that are actively contributing metals or sediment loads to surface waters. This alternative uses subaqueous mine waste disposal to the maximum extent.

**Alternative 5: On-site Containment and Erosion Control** - Includes the actions described in Alternatives 1 and 2 in addition to conventional excavation, consolidation, and capping of excavated mill wastes and sediments contributing to aquatic life criteria exceedances. This alternative prohibits subaqueous disposal.

**Alternative 6: Source Removal and On-site Disposal** - Includes the actions described in alternatives 1, 2, and 4 in addition to addressing all surficial wastes by placement of excavated wastes into engineered repositories and employing various multi-layered capping designs for repositories and capped subsidence pits in order to completely reduce infiltration. This alternative is the most costly and comprehensive.

A complete explanation of the alternatives can be found in the Focused Feasibility Study Report that is included in the Administrative Record.

## **RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE**

EPA proposes to select a modified version of Alternative 4 (Source Removal and Subsidence Pit Disposal), which is designated as Alternative 4A (Complete Source Removal, Capping, and Subsidence Pit Disposal) as our Preferred Alternative, subject to public comment. The modifications to the original Alternative 4 include the remediation of all surficial mine waste accumulations at the subsites by a combination of subaqueous mine waste disposal, consolidation with capping, and capping in place.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Proposed Plan and other site-related documents provide details of the nature and extent of contamination and the work that has been completed at the site. These documents are part of the Administrative Record, available at the following locations:

Columbus Public Library  
205 N. Kansas Avenue  
Columbus, Kansas

EPA Region 7 Records Center  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions or need additional information concerning the public meeting or the Cherokee County site, please contact:

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