Region 7

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Fact Sheet

November 2004

EPA Providing Alternate Water Supply
Parkview Well Site, Grand Island, Nebraska

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7, in coordination with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), has conducted additional characterization activities at the Parkview Well Superfund Site in Grand Island. This work included sampling of ground water and several residential wells previously found to contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) at concentrations above health based levels of concern.

Based on this information, EPA will provide alternate water supplies to several households with private drinking water wells affected by the ground water contaminants related to the site.

SITE BACKGROUND

The Parkview Well site is located near the southwest corner of the city of Grand Island (the City) in Hall County, Nebraska. Investigations have identified what appears to be two areas of contamination, including a north and south plume of ground water contamination. The northern plume extends from the Case New Holland (CNH) property (an agricultural combine manufacturer) east toward the Parkview subdivision. The southern plume extends from a golf course west of the Marylane, Kentish Hills, and Castle Estates subdivisions to the east where it commingles with the northern plume under the Parkview subdivision. EPA is trying to determine the source(s) of these two plumes of contamination and how the contamination is impacting the area near the Parkview subdivision.

In 1999, routine monitoring first detected VOCs in municipal well PWSW-4. In August 2001, analysis of ground water from PWSW-4 detected VOCs at concentrations exceeding health-based levels. In 2001 and 2002, sampling by the City identified similar VOCs in several private drinking water wells around the Parkview subdivision. This municipal well and numerous domestic wells have been closed due to the contamination. Ground water in this area moves in an easterly direction, and ground water contamination is likely migrating in that direction.

In the fall of 2002, CNH conducted an investigation of soil and ground water at impacted areas on their property. Analytical results from this investigation indicated significantly elevated levels of VOCs in soil and ground water.

In the summer and fall of 2003, the EPA, state, city, county and CNH conducted additional investigations and confirmed that several private drinking water wells at the Parkview, Marylane, Kentish Hills, and Castle Estates subdivisions were contaminated with VOCs, some above drinking water standards. Over seventy private drinking water wells were found to contain ground water contaminated with VOCs at levels exceeding health based

levels. Based on this information, CNH agreed to provide an alternate water supply to the affected residents.

The VOCs detected during these investigations included: tetrachloroethylene (PCE); trichloroethylene (TCE); 1,1- and cis-1,2-dichloroethylene (DCE); 1,1- and 1,2-dichloroethane (DCA); and 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA).

CURRENT ACTIONS

EPA conducted further follow-up investigations in August 2004, including collecting samples of ground water and indoor air. EPA confirmed that several private wells contained PCE at levels of concern. For those residences affected, EPA is working with the city, state, and the homeowner to determine the best strategy for preventing exposure to the contamination.

At this time, EPA is planning to connect six homes to the city water supply. These homes will be offered bottled water until this connection is complete. EPA may conduct additional sampling of wells threatened by contamination.

EPA, in consultation with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services System, has evaluated the risk to individuals who are drinking contaminated water from the site. EPA has determined that there are certain levels of contamination in the ground water that may pose an unacceptable health risk to these individuals. If levels of contamination in a person's private drinking water well are more than 5 micrograms per liter (ug/l) of PCE or 261 ug/l of DCE, then EPA will provide an alternate water supply to that residence until it can be connected to the municipal water supply.

FUTURE STEPS

The Parkview Well site was proposed for listing on the National Priorities List, on NPL, in September 2004. As a next step to this proposed listing, a study called a remedial investigation will be performed to define the extent of the contamination. This investigation will rely to a great degree on the previously collected information and supplement that information where data gaps exist, including additional sampling of wells threatened by contamination. EPA is also investigating the possible source(s) of contamination.

After the remedial investigation is complete, a feasibility study will be prepared to evaluate different alternatives to clean up the contamination at the site. EPA will ultimately present this information to the community and ask for comments on EPA's proposed actions before making a decision regarding the cleanup. During this process EPA will continue to evaluate the need for interim actions to protect the public drinking water supply.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on this Fact Sheet or the Site, please contact:

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