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SEPA FACT

Moss-American Superfund Site Project Update January 1993



INTRODUCTION

This is the second project update report about the Moss-American Superfund site, located at the intersection of Brown Deer and Granville Roads, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) will provide regular updates during the design and cleanup phases at the site. Additional activities, such as informal information sessions and public meetings may also be held, and will be announced in future updates and local newspapers.

BACKGROUND

The Moss-American site is the location of a former wood preserving facility that treated railroad ties with creosote and fuel oil mixture. The site operated from 1921 to 1976, when it was closed by Kerr-McGee, the former owner. While in operation, liquid waster were discharged to settling ponds that drained into the Little Menomonee River. Today's environmental problems at the site are related to the use and disposal of creosote.

U.S. EPA placed the site on its National Priorities List in 1983. A remedial investigation (RI), which identified the nature and extent of contamination, began in late 1987 and completed in early 1990. A feasibility study (FS), which developed and evaluated site cleanup options, was completed in May 1990.

The cleanup plan for the site was finalized in September 1990. The plan included rerouting of the Little Menomonee River, treating highly contaminated soil on site in a device called a slurry bioreactor, covering remaining contaminated sediment and soil, treating contaminated ground water, and treating soil from the northeast landfill and disposing of it on site.

DESIGN ACTIVITIES

Since former owner Kerr-McGee signed a legal document called a consent decree to fund and conduct the cleanup, the company has been collecting information in preparation to design the cleanup project. These "predesign" activities include a treatability study which is often done at Superfund sites to determine the ability to fulfill cleanup objectives. If the selected cleanup plan does not work based on results from additional studies called soil characterization and teatability and extent of contamination studies, the cleanup plan could be changed, or amended. If a change is necessary, the community will be kept informed. Results should be available in Spring 1994.

Once the design phase is completed, the project will enter the cleanup, or remedial action, phase. During this period, scheduled for 1997 or 1998, the park adjacent to the river between Brown Deer Road and Hampton Avenue will be affected by the cleanup. Park facilities, including hiking and bicycle paths, could be temporarily closed to accommodate the heavy machinery typically used to clean up Superfund sites. Residents living near the river may also see and hear the cleanup work. U.S. EPA and Kerr-McGee will attempt to minimize construction impacts to the public.

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