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EPA **FACT SHEET**

MOSS-AMERICAN SUPERFUND SITE PROJECT UPDATE JANUARY 1995

INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth update report about the Moss-American Superfund site, located at the intersection of Brown Deer and Granville Roads, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The United States 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. These activities will be announced in future updates and in local newspapers.

BACKGROUND

The Moss-American site is the location of a former wood preserving facility that treated railroad ties with a creosote and fuel oil mixture. The site operated from 1921 to 1976 when it was closed by the former owner, Kerr-McGee. While in operation, liquid wastes 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 finalized a plan in September 1990 to clean up contaminated soil and ground water and to reroute the Little Menomonee River. Kerr Mc-Gee signed a legal document called a consent decree in 1991 to do that clean up.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Before cleanup can begin, Kerr-McGee, under U.S. EPA and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) supervision, has been designing the cleanup project. From June to October, Kerr-McGee collected "predesign" information on site on the Chicago and North Western (C&NW) property north of Granville Road and along the Little Menomonee River. Predesign activities included:

- refining/developing a procedure to quickly measure cancer-causing polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in soil and sediment which are associated with petroleum products such as creosote;

- determining the amounts of sediment from natural overflows in Little Menomonee River tributaries to see if there may be sources of PAH contamination, other than the Moss-American site, which could contribute to the degradation of water quality;

- verifying the presence and extent of creosote pools (also referred to as "free product") in soil just above the ground-water table;

- refining estimates on the extent of contaminated sediment in the Little Menomonee River;

- refining estimates on the extent of contaminated soil on site;

- investigating and evaluating ground-water conditions on site and east of the Little Menomonee River; and

- examining PAH contamination in the floodplain of the Little Menomonee River.

Based on the predesign results, U.S. EPA directed Kerr-McGee to remove the free product as soon as possible and to begin the overall design for the ground-water collection/treatment portions of the cleanup project. Removing the free product may involve the installation of a collection device, called an extraction well, and the evaluation of whether the free product can be recycled.

The overall design may involve the development of methods to treat, or clean up, free-product areas which could serve as continuing sources of contaminants, the installation of collection devices such as sumps and trenches to work with the extraction wells used to clean up contaminated ground water, and the installation of devices to adequately remove contaminants from water that has been collected.

Results also indicated that the technology originally considered for cleaning up contaminated soil and sediment, may not be appropriate. A large tank of water containing bacteria that feed on PAHs attached to soil, called a slurry bioreactor, was planned for the soil/sediment cleanup. However, this technology may not be able to meet state and federal cleanup standards when placed in an unlined landfill on site. If another technology must be used, U.S. EPA will seek public input on other options.

The two-volume set of results, along with other site-related documents, is available for review at U.S. EPA's information repository at the Mill Road Library, 6431 N. 76th St., Milwaukee, WI. An administrative record, containing the information upon which the cleanup plan was based, is also available at the library.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

In addition to designing the overall ground-water collection/treatment project and removing the free product in the Little Menomonee River in 1995, U.S. EPA expects Kerr-McGee to develop information, such as cost comparisons, to help determine what suitable cleanup options might replace the slurry bioreactor.

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