



# FACT SHEET

## MOSS-AMERICAN SUPERFUND SITE PROJECT UPDATE JULY 1995

### INTRODUCTION

This is the fifth 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 continue to 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-McGee signed a legal document called a consent decree in 1991 to do that cleanup.

Another former owner, Chicago & North Western Railroad (C&NW), recently sold its assets to Union Pacific. So, areas of the site previously referred to as C&NW property will now be referred to as Union Pacific property.

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES

For the past year, U.S. EPA and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) have been overseeing Kerr McGee's design of the cleanup project. To help design the cleanup, information was collected on the Union Pacific property north of Granville Road and along the river. During this time, creosote pools (also referred to as "free product") were found in soil just above the ground-water table. Based on sampling results, U.S. EPA directed Kerr-McGee to remove the free product as soon as possible. Last month, plans for a free product recovery and removal system were approved by U.S. EPA.

The major components of the system are: a recovery well network with pumps to collect the free product; a piping system to transport the free product from below ground to storage tanks located just west of the boundary line between Union Pacific and Milwaukee properties; and a storage area immediately south of the tanks for scientific equipment and instruments used during the removal project.

Installation of the recovery wells has been completed. These wells resemble pipes protruding from the ground. The wells and tanks may be seen by passers by looking south from Brown Deer Road. Construction of the storage tanks and detection probes (devices used to distinguish between creosote liquid and water) will be completed by August. Free-product collection will begin shortly thereafter and will operate on a seasonal basis. Free product will not be recovered during the winter. Free-product collection will involve an operator occasionally checking and repairing the pumps. Tanker trucks may also be noticed picking up and transporting recovered creosote and/or "water" waste.

Once the recoverable creosote is pumped, it will be placed in the storage tanks to await proper handling. Although this free product can be treated as waste material, it may also be possible to recycle it as a raw material, or feedstock, at one of Kerr-McGee's active creosote plants in Indianapolis or Springfield, MO. Kerr-McGee will research possible recycling programs and confirm for U.S. EPA and WDNR whether each tank load is acceptable for use as a feedstock or if it must be disposed of as a waste.

Design plans for the free-product recovery and removal system, along with other site-related documents, are available for review at U.S. EPA's information repository at the Mill Road Library, 6431 N. 76th St., Milwaukee. An administrative record, containing the information upon which the 1990 cleanup plan was based, is also available at the library.

## **FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

A report is due by Kerr-McGee to U.S. EPA and WDNR in August which will discuss alternatives for managing the more highly contaminated soils. Pending the agencies' review, U.S. EPA may consider information on a different treatment technology and the modification of current soil cleanup standards to include protection of railroad or other industrial workers on site. In 1990, U.S. EPA approved through a document called a Record of Decision (ROD) a technology called bioslurry treatment. Recent information has shown that this technology may not be appropriate. If U.S. EPA elects to recommend another alternative, a minimum 30-day comment period will be held before a final decision is made and the ROD amended.

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