



FACT SHEET

MOSS-AMERICAN SUPERFUND SITE
PROJECT UPDATE
JANUARY 1996

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INTRODUCTION

This is the sixth 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 are now referred to as Union Pacific property.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

For more than a year, U.S. EPA and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) have been overseeing Kerr-McGee's design of the cleanup project, and some progress continues to be made. The removal of creosote pools, or "free product," continued into October. The removal system, which includes extraction wells and an area for storage tanks to hold creosote materials and diluted "watery wastes," was built and began operating in early October. Before being shut down for the winter, it extracted 500 to 600 gallons of material. Of this, 80 to 100 gallons were creosote material while the remainder was watery waste.

U.S. EPA and WDNR are also reviewing Kerr-McGee's preliminary plans for overall site ground-water control and an evaluation of new management options for contaminated soil and sediment which could replace bioslurry treatment, the cleanup technology originally selected in 1990. Preliminary tests showed bioslurry treatment was not as effective as originally hoped. U.S. EPA and WDNR have agreed to review any new information on rerouting the Little Menomonee River. If U.S. EPA decides to amend its original decision based on new information, a minimum 30-day public comment period will be held before a new cleanup plan is selected.

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FUTURE ACTIVITIES

U.S. EPA and WDNR will continue to communicate with Kerr-McGee on finalizing its plans for ground-water cleanup throughout 1996 so cleanup could begin in Fall 1996 or Spring 1997. U.S. EPA will also maintain contact with Union Pacific and Milwaukee County regarding a plan to protect railroad or other industrial workers on site.

WDNR will, over the next several months, lead a team of U.S. EPA and WDNR scientists in a review of ecological impacts and possible alternatives to river rerouting. Union Pacific, Milwaukee County, and Kerr McGee representatives will be consulted as the review progresses.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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