FACT SHEET

EPA Region 7

Riverfront Site
New Haven, Missouri

November 1999

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 is currently conducting an investigation concerning the Riverfront Site in New Haven, Missouri. EPA's investigation is being done to identify the source of the tetracholorethylene (PCE) contamination found in wells #1 and #2 of New Haven's drinking water. Currently, no one is drinking water from these wells. New Haven's water is being supplied by two additional, uncontaminated wells in the area.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) discovered the PCE contamination during a routine sampling of the public water supply. In 1987 and 1988, MDNR conducted a site investigation in an attempt to identify possible PCE sources. During those investigations, MDNR took soil and ground water samples. The city of New Haven closed wells #1 and #2 because PCE was detected at levels above the safe drinking water standard. Both wells are in the northern part of the city. PCE has not been detected in municipal wells #3 or #4 which currently supply the city with its water.

Information Session Announcement

EPA will hold an informal meeting,
Wednesday, November 17, 1999
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
New Haven High School
100 Park Drive
New Haven, Missouri

Staff members involved at the site will be available to answer your questions, one-on-one. A site update will be given at 4 p.m., 5 p.m and 6 p.m. You can attend the meeting at your convenience between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

For more information, please call:

Hattie Thomas, EPA
Office of External Programs
1-913-551-7762
Toll-free 1-800-223-0425

SITE BACKGROUND

A number of industries operated on the Riverfront Site. The contamination on the site may have resulted from these operations.

CURRENT INVESTIGATION

EPA is investigating the PCE contamination in the New Haven wells #1 and #2. This is a two-phased investigation. EPA will conduct additional investigations if sample results indicate a need. EPA's objective is to determine the source(s) and extent of PCE

contamination.

The first phase of the investigation was designed with the following three objectives and is nearing completion:

1. Determine the direction of shallow ground water flow in the New Haven area and if nearby domestic wells are contaminated by PCE.

2. Determine if a significant quantity of PCE wastes are present at the old city dump.

3. Determine if alluvial ground water near city wells #1 and #2 are contaminated with PCE.

EPA conducted a voluntary domestic well survey in New Haven in March 1999. The survey provided water level measurements that were beneficial in understanding the general ground water flow. A subset of these wells were tested for PCE using field techniques.

Initial sampling done at the old city dump has indicated the presence of PCE. Additional sampling is required to determine if a significant amount of PCE is present that might have contributed to the ground water contamination.

Four monitoring wells were installed between municipal well #2 and the Missouri River in August 1999. The purpose of the monitoring wells is to determine if contamination is present in the alluvial ground water near the city wells. Weekly sampling and testing of the monitoring wells is currently being done. However, laboratory results confirming PCE contamination in the ground water have not been received by EPA at this time.

The second phase of EPA's investigation is planned to start in December 1999. This phase will include additional testing of well #2 and the installation of additional monitoring wells. The test will help identify the depth at which contaminants are entering well #2. The additional monitoring wells will assist in determining if the ground water up gradient of municipal well #2 is contaminated with PCE.

SUPERFUND PROGRAM

EPA is conducting the site investigations under the Superfund program. Congress established the Superfund program in 1980 in response to growing concerns over human health and environmental risks posed by hazardous waste sites. Superfund locates, investigates and cleans up hazardous waste sites.

After a hazardous waste site is discovered, cleanup can fall under two programs: Removal or Remedial. Removal cleanups are taken at sites that pose threats to people or the environment in the near future. Remedial cleanups address sites that require extensive cleanup. EPA encourages community involvement throughout the Superfund process.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions or need further information about this site, please contact:

Hattie Thomas
Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
1-913-551-7003
Toll free 1-800-223-0425
E-mail: thomas.hattie@epa.gov

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