

**RAILROAD AVENUE
GROUND WATER
CONTAMINATION SITE**

IOWA

EPA ID# IA0001610963

**EPA Region 7
City: West Des Moines
County: Polk
Other Names:**

02/23/2009



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Railroad Avenue site consists of an area of ground water contamination which includes 22 municipal water supply wells that historically or currently supply water to the residents of West Des Moines, Iowa, and the potential source areas of the contamination. West Des Moines, a suburb of Des Moines, Iowa, is located in southwest Polk County in south-central Iowa. The site occupies portions of Sections 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 21, and 22, T78N, R25W.

Site Responsibility:

This site is being addressed through Federal, State and PRP actions

NPL LISTING HISTORY

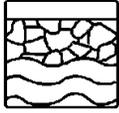
Proposed Date: 09/13/2001

Final Date: 09/05/2002

Deleted Date:

THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS

The ground water has been contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE), cis-1,2-dichloroethylene (cis-1,2-DCE), and vinyl chloride. Contamination in the



ground water has been detected in several of the municipal water supply wells, and 5 of these were historically taken off-line, but have since been returned to service subsequent to interim response action.

CLEANUP APPROACH

Response Action Status



Cleanup Ongoing: This site consists of two separate plumes of ground water contamination which are managed as two operable units (OUs). Both plumes are stable. The plumes are not migrating and are decreasing in overall concentration.

OU1 covers the northern plume and is being remediated as a fund-lead project because no potentially responsible parties (PRP) were identified for the ground water contamination. The remedial actions (RAs) to address the ground water contamination are aeration and monitored natural attenuation. The initial RA was the construction of aerators at the water treatment plant. The aerators were paid for by the PRP for OU2 as part of their RA. The RAs for both OUs use the municipal water supply wells to extract ground water. The aerators ensure that any residual contamination is removed from the water supply. This project was completed on September 12, 2007. The remedy for the second RA is monitored natural attenuation (MNA) which started on November 15, 2006, and continues to operate. Water samples are collected semi-annually from monitoring wells and municipal wells by the EPA, and daily within the water plant by the City of West Des Moines.

A Record of Decision for OU1 was completed for the western portion of the plume on September 26, 2003, and a Record of Decision was completed for the eastern portion of the plume on September 19, 2005.

OU2 was established for the southern plume, which has a PRP. A consent order was signed with this PRP to conduct further investigations and removal actions for the southern plume. The removal action at OU2 constructed new aerators at the water plant to provide treatment for the contaminants in the plume before use of the water for drinking water supply.

A second removal action for the southern plume, prompting installation and operation of sparging wells in the most contaminated portion of the plume, was approved on April 19, 2005, by an Action Memorandum. A Record of Decision was completed on September 11, 2006, for OU2 and called for continued operation of the sparge wells and monitored natural attenuation. The site achieved NPL

Construction Complete, and ground water migration was considered under control, as of the end of FY 2007. In December 2008, ground water monitoring found that the ground water contamination at OU2 had reached or been reduced to levels below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). In accordance with the approved ROD, the PRP was allowed to turn off the air sparging system in January 2009, under the condition that the ground water wells shall be monitored quarterly and the air sparging system shall be maintained in operational condition. The ground water associated with OU2 will continue to be monitored quarterly and the air sparging resumed should contamination levels rise above the MCL. The Consent Decree on OU2 was entered on October 15, 2007.

Site Facts:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS



Remedial Investigations have been completed for both plumes. Construction of new aerators has been completed and they are currently operating successfully for the southern plume and the western portion of the northern plume. A sparging well system was installed to remediate the southern plume in addition to monitored natural attenuation. The eastern portion of the northern plume is being remediated by monitored natural attenuation.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

11/99 - Fact Sheet updating information on investigation of soil and ground water contamination.
6/00 - Fact Sheet explaining continuation of evaluation of information received during sampling.
10/00 - Fact Sheet announcing Public Availability session. Meeting held 10/24/00. Display Ad in the Des Moines Register.
10/01 - Fact Sheet announces Proposal to List site on the NPL and comment period. Display ad

in the Des Moines Register. Press Release sent to media outlets.

7/02 - Community notified of Technical Assistance Grant through direct mailing, display ad published in Des Moines Register

9/02 - Press Release announcing Final Listing of the site to the NPL sent to media outlets.

2/03 - Conducted community interviews to use in creating the Community Involvement Plan, final dated 5/29/03.

8/03 - Fact Sheet announcing Proposed Plan for Interim Remedial Action and public meeting to take public comments. Display Ad in the Des Moines Register.

9/03 - Fact Sheet sent out re: Useful Property Information.

10/03 - Fact Sheet announcing ROD for Interim Remedial Action.

6/05 - Fact Sheet announcing Proposed Plan and Public Meeting to take public comment.

Display Ad in the Des Moines Register.

9/05 - Fact Sheet announcing ROD for Northern Plume. Display Ad announcing ROD.

7/06 - Fact Sheet announcing Proposed Plan and Public Meeting to take public comment for ROD for Southern Plume. Display Ad in the Des Moines Register.

10/06- Fact Sheet announcing ROD for Southern Plume. Display Ad announcing ROD.

SITE REPOSITORY



West Des Moines Public Library
4000 George M. Mills Civic Parkway
West Des Moines, Iowa

Superfund Records Center
901 N. 5th St.
Kansas City, KS 66101
Mail Stop SUPR
(913)551-7166

REGIONAL CONTACTS

SITE MANAGER:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

Todd Davis
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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

COORDINATOR:

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E-MAIL ADDRESS:

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STATE CONTACT:

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MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

STATE:

IA

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

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EPA ORGANIZATION:

SFD-IANE

MODIFICATIONS

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