

Cleanup of Chemicals Finished; Ground-water Monitoring Next

Texas Township Drum Site
Texas Township, Michigan

April 2009

Public Meeting

EPA will hold a meeting to discuss the cleanup at the Texas Township Drum site:

Thursday, April 16, 6:30 p.m.
Kalamazoo Valley Comm. College
Main Building, Room 8570
(downstairs)
6767 West O Ave.
Kalamazoo

For more information

If you have questions or comments about the cleanup at the Texas Township Drum site, contact one of these EPA team members:

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On the Web:

www.epa.gov/region5/sites/texas/

Region 5 toll-free:

800-621-8431,
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., weekdays

EPA Region 5

77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

All hazardous chemicals, biological and radioactive materials have been removed from a farm at 10135 W. O Ave. in Texas Township. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency supervised the cleanup of about 500 drums from the site. Total cost of the cleanup so far is \$1.3 million.

The drums were damaged in a fire while stored in a pole barn at the property. Federal, state and local emergency response teams determined the site posed no immediate danger to area residents, but that there was a potential threat if the materials remained at the site.

Part of the cleanup process was to identify materials in thousands of smaller containers packed in the drums so they could be disposed of properly. Twenty-five of the drums contained radioactive materials, which were sent to a disposal site licensed to accept radioactive waste. There were many other hazardous substances in the drums removed from the site, including about 36,000 pounds of mercury waste, about 20,500 pounds of chromium and arsenic waste, and about 8,025 pounds of formalin, a form of formaldehyde.

Next steps

Now that all the hazardous materials and contaminated surface soil have been removed, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is investigating any potential impact on sub-surface soil and ground water. MDEQ will present preliminary results at the public meeting.

Background

Emergency responders became aware of the potential danger after a fire Aug. 20. During an investigation, first responders discovered charred drums stacked in the pole barn and contacted the EPA Emergency Response Branch. The investigation revealed charred 55-gallon drums containing various hazardous materials and biological waste in the pole barn, along a trail on the property and in a newly excavated pit.



Workers in protective clothing clean up damaged drums in the area where a pole barn stood.