



US Magnesium Superfund Site Update

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
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With 2015 already begun, EPA would like to share with you an update about what's been going on at the US Magnesium Superfund site. You will recall that in June of last year, we held an open house and a presentation-style meeting in Grantsville to discuss the site and answer questions from the public. At that time, we provided a general overview of the environmental concerns at the site, and the Superfund process and resources it provides.

In June, we reviewed that the EPA listed the US Magnesium site on the National Priorities List of Superfund Sites in 2009. The first major step once a site is listed on the National Priorities List is to conduct a thorough remedial investigation into the nature and extent of contamination. We discussed the objectives of and progress made toward this first step as described in the *2013 Phase 1A Remedial Investigation Sampling and Analysis Plan to Identify Chemicals of Potential Concern in Soils, Sediment, Solid Waste, Water and Air, and Receptor Surveys*. Progress highlights included that all Phase 1A sampling had been completed in 11 of the 18 preliminary investigation areas; geophysics and drilling sampling at the landfill on site had been completed; initial surface water sampling had been completed; initial groundwater sampling had been completed; and preliminary site conceptual models were completed (these identify the fate and transport of potential contaminants of concern and who and what might become exposed). Feel free to view the Power Point presented at the meeting in June, the posters available at the open house, and other US Magnesium site information at our Website at <http://www2.epa.gov/region8/us-magnesium>.

In the months following the June meetings, US Magnesium, LLC contractors have continued to implement the environmental investigations prescribed in the 2013 Phase 1A Remedial Investigation Sampling and Analysis Plan referenced above. This work has been and continues to be conducted with strict oversight from EPA in coordination with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality.

EPA divided the site into 18 preliminary investigation areas (PRIs). Further, EPA divided the site into two operable units (OUs): OU1 includes all soil, sediment, and water, and OU2 includes air within the five mile study area. At OU1, EPA continues to work with U.S. Magnesium contractors to agree

upon a path forward regarding the inner PRIs, which include areas immediately surrounding the US Magnesium plant. At issue is how best to investigate and/or cleanup some of the more highly contaminated ponds and ditches. Further sampling of soils, sediments, surface and groundwater last fall was conducted in the outer PRIs last fall. EPA is reviewing the Phase 1A Outer PRI Findings Report which is expected to be final in early 2015. This report will assist EPA and US Magnesium risk assessors in evaluating where to investigate further in the outer PRIs. Additionally, last August, EPA finalized a technical memorandum which summarizes EPA's split sampling and oversight of U.S. Magnesium contractor activities to-date for OU1.

Also in August of last year, EPA finalized the Phase 1A Air Sampling and Analysis Plan to identify chronic airborne contaminants being released from the facility. As a result, three sampling stations were installed which were monitored for several weeks while the facility was at more than 90 percent operating conditions. A Sampling and Analysis Plan for acute contaminants (chlorine and hydrochloric acid) is in development.

As part of the June 2014 meeting, EPA presented information about Superfund Community Advisory Groups. There was interest among many meeting attendees to convene such a group for the US Magnesium Superfund Site. With the Phase 1A Air Sampling and Analysis now complete and the Phase 1A Outer PRI Sampling Findings Report soon to be final, we feel it might be a good time to bring our first Community Advisory Group meeting together for a general site update and to discuss this information. ***We would like to host the meeting at the end of March. We will send out the exact date, location, time, and meeting agenda in a subsequent email.*** Please feel free to contact Jennifer Chergo (contact information below) with questions, suggestions, or for more information.

Thank you and we look forward to a productive year at the U.S. Magnesium Superfund Site.

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