



US Magnesium Superfund Site

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Site Description

The US Magnesium facility and areas of waste disposal span 4,525 acres in Tooele County, Utah. The site is located in a scarcely populated, industrial area, 40 miles west of Salt Lake City and 33 miles north of Grantsville. The site is adjacent to the Great Salt Lake, an ecosystem that attracts millions of birds per year.

The facility has been producing magnesium at the site since 1972. It uses brine from the Great Salt Lake as the raw material and produces a variety of wastes. There are areas of uncontrolled wastes on the property which investigations show are threatening the health of workers and the environment.

Site Risk

Risk assessments show environmental and human health risks. Contaminants consist of heavy metals, acidic wastewater, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins/furans, hexachlorobenzene (HCBs), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). These contaminants have both cancerous and non-cancerous health risks to humans and wildlife and have been released into the air, soil, surface water, and groundwater and are largely uncontrolled.

Cleanup Progress

On September 3, 2008, EPA, with support from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ), announced its proposal to add US Magnesium to the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is a list of some of the nation's most highly contaminated sites, commonly referred to as Superfund sites.

On November 2, 2009, EPA, with support from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ), announced that it had added the US Magnesium site to the NPL.

On November 4, 2009 US Magnesium, LLC filed with the U.S. District Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. an appeal of EPA's listing on the NPL. The Court of Appeals issued rulings in August 2010 rejecting US Magnesium's appeal.

On August 4, 2011, EPA filed an Administrative Order on Consent with US Magnesium, LLC for the performance of the Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS). The consent order provides that US Magnesium, LLC contractors will conduct the Superfund RI/FS for the site in accordance with EPA direction, procedures and subject to EPA oversight. The goal of the RI is to determine the nature and extent of

contamination at the site. The purpose of the FS is to evaluate potential cleanup alternatives based on information gathered during the RI.

In September 2013, EPA issued the 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 (Phase 1A SAP). The Phase 1A SAP is the first phase in a four-phased approach to the remedial investigation.

Community Involvement

On September 3, 2008, EPA announced in the Federal Register its proposal to add US Magnesium to the NPL. EPA received input from area stakeholders in advance of the proposal. EPA also announced the proposal in the *Salt Lake Tribune* on September 3, 2008 and on this Web page. EPA held a public comment period on the proposal and received 115 letters and petitions in support of the listing and three in opposition.

On November 2, 2009, EPA, with support from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ), announced in the Federal Register and issued a press release that it had added US Magnesium to the NPL. On November 4, EPA sent an email to stakeholders on its mailing list and updated this page with information regarding the NPL listing. EPA issued a public notice in the *Tooele Transcript* and the *Salt Lake Tribune* to announce the NPL listing.

In September and November 2011, and April 2012, EPA and UDEQ community involvement and project management staff conducted formal community interviews with interested stakeholders as a basis for developing the Community Involvement Plan. The Community Involvement Plan was finalized in September 2012 and is the foundation for community involvement and outreach activities at the US Magnesium Superfund site.

In 2013, representatives from the Friends of the Great Salt Lake applied for and received an EPA Technical Assistance Grant (TAG). A TAG recipient receives funds to hire an independent technical

advisor to help interpret information and data about the site for the group. The TAG recipient group then assists in communicating site information to the community at large.

EPA hosted an public open house and a Community Advisory Group informational meeting in June 2014. The Community Advisory Group is open to the public and includes committed individuals representing an array of interests. EPA hosts Community Advisory Group meetings every few months, or as needed, to discuss site activities and updates with the group.

For more information, please contact:

Jennifer Chergo
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202
303-312-6601
800-227-8917
chergo.jennifer@epa.gov

Ken Wangerud
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202
303-312-6703
800-227-8917
wangerud.ken@epa.gov

Dave Allison
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
168 North 1950 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
801-536-4479
dallison@utah.gov

Michael Storck
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
195 North 1950 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
801-536-4179
mstorck@utah.gov

Or visit the US Magnesium Superfund Site Web page at: www2.epa.gov/region8/us-magnesium