COLSF 14.5 V1

EPA

SPOKANE COUNTY

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Spring/Summer, 1991

Superfund Update
Colbert Landfill
Spokane County, Washington

Background

The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to update you on activities at the Colbert Landfill Superfund site. The primary concerns at the site are associated with contaminants from solvents disposed of on the site and ground water contamination. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) are overseeing the cleanup which is being conducted by Spokane County.

Pump tests and treatability studies on the ground water cleanup system were completed in March. The results of these studies are important in developing the final design. The final design of the treatment system will include some above ground structures. Spokane County will provide an opportunity for comment on the visual impacts of these structures prior to finalizing the plans.

Status of the Pilot Extraction Well and Treatment System

Pump tests on the four ground water extraction wells have been completed. The first pump test was on the south extraction well which was featured during an open house and viewing on October 23, 1990. The data obtained during these tests will be used to design the final extraction and cleanup systems.

The pilot system suffered some problems during the pump tests due to freezing weather. The freezing caused some minor pipe breakage which was easily repaired. In addition, the screen on the north extraction well suffered blocking problems which caused some delays in gathering data. The well was deepened to provide adequate pump flows to complete the treatability studies.

The air stripping tower, which extracts contaminants from the groundwater, was installed as part of the pump tests. (The test tower has recently been disassembled for removal). Data obtained during tests from December through March will be used to design the permanent air stripping treatment system. The location of the permanent system is expected to be west of the landfill where the pilot treatment system has most recently operated.

The final report on all pilot tests is scheduled for release in late August. The Engineering Report will recommend the final system design. EPA and Ecology will be reviewing and approving the recommendations of the report.

USEPA SF
1419065

The Final Design

Once the Engineering Report is approved, contractors for Spokane County will begin the final plans and specifications for construction. EPA and Ecology will review and approve all of the plans and specifications to ensure that the system is consistent with the requirements in the Record of Decision, Consent Decree, and federal and state laws and regulations. The design process may take place in stages to allow for phased construction over about a one year period.

Domestic Well Monitoring Program

The Domestic Well Monitoring Program began in 1985. Since then, the County has successfully installed about 40 monitoring wells in the area to augment the ground water data. The on-going collection of comprehensive and accurate data is ensuring the safety of local drinking water wells potentially threatened by contamination.

In 1990, Spokane County, EPA, and Ecology recommended that the existing sampling procedures be evaluated and revised as necessary due to some inconsistencies in the data being gathered. The inconsistencies were discovered and corrected. They in no way effected decisions for determining connections to alternative water supplies. During the evaluation, it was recognized that the existing management and sampling techniques were not well documented.

Spokane County has hired a water resources/data management specialist who will be responsible for sampling and collecting data on the domestic wells in the Colbert area. Questions about the sampling program can be answered by Bill Wedlake, Manager of the Domestic Well Monitoring Program and County representative on the Sampling Committee, at 509-456-3604.

Spokane County has been preparing documents to address the Domestic Well Monitoring Program management, sampling protocols, quality of the sampling and analyses, and well sampling criteria for frequency of sampling. Input for these documents has also come from the Colbert Sampling Committee. EPA and Ecology have been reviewing the documents as they have been prepared. Changes in the Domestic Well Monitoring Program require EPA and Ecology approval prior to implementation.

The Colbert Sampling Committee

The Colbert Sampling Committee (which now includes county, state health, and citizen representation) has prepared criteria for sampling, alternative water hook-up plans, and the process that will be used to determine the annual sampling program for the domestic wells in the area. The role of the committee is defined in the "Colbert Sampling Committee Guidelines."

The Sampling Committee meets monthly to review well sampling data. They also have the responsibility for establishing and reviewing the specific locations and frequency of sampling under the Domestic Well Monitoring Program for Spokane County. The frequency of monitoring of wells depends on their location relative to the plume characteristics (the speed and

direction of the contaminated underground water movement). The primary concern is public health, and the monitoring program will meet this objective by frequent monitoring of wells in target areas along the path of the contaminant plume.

Up Coming Activities

This fall, the County will be asking for your input on the visual impacts of the extraction and treatment system after the design criteria developed in the Engineering Report become available. Most of the system will be underground (i.e. the wells and piping). This will reduce the visual impacts of the system. However, some parts of the permanent extraction and treatment systems (including the air stripping tower) will be above ground. The current plan is to construct the ground water treatment system in the area west of the landfill adjacent to the new solid waste transfer station. More information about this will be provided in a later fact sheet.

Community Update

Colbert Landfill Citizen's Meeting:

July 10, 1991,
7:00 PM
The home of (b) (6) [redacted]

Colbert, WA 99050

Meeting Agenda:
The well sampling program,
Grant applications,
Clean Sites report,
Status of Phase II investigations.

Meeting Information:

Call (b) (6) [redacted] if you wish to attend or have questions about the Community Meeting.

Clean Sites Forum:

(b) (6) [redacted] represented the Colbert Community at the Clean Sites Superfund Forum in Los Angeles on March 7, 1991. (b) (6) [redacted] felt the issues discussed were relevant to all Superfund Sites and many appear to be common throughout the country. She will give a detailed report at the June 10 Citizens' Committee Meeting. (b) (6) [redacted] is also the community representative on the Colbert Sampling Committee.