Region 7
Iowa
Kansas
Missouri
Nebraska

Fact Sheet

February 2005

Public Information Center Opens, Building Dismantlement Continues

PCB Treatment, Inc. Superfund Site, Kansas City, Missouri

SITE UPDATE

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the opening of a Public Information Center adjacent to the Superfund site cleanup being conducted at the former PCB Treatment Inc. (PTI) facility located at 2100 Wyandotte Street, Kansas City, Missouri. The Public Information Center will open February 7, 2005, and is located in the former Allstate Filter building at 2120 Wyandotte Street.

The Center will be open to the public to provide written materials describing both the Superfund cleanup program and the cleanup of the PTI facility. An EPA representative will be at the Center from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. weekdays, and Thursday evenings until 7:00 p.m. until the dismantlement is complete. Hours of operation may be adjusted to accommodate community members.

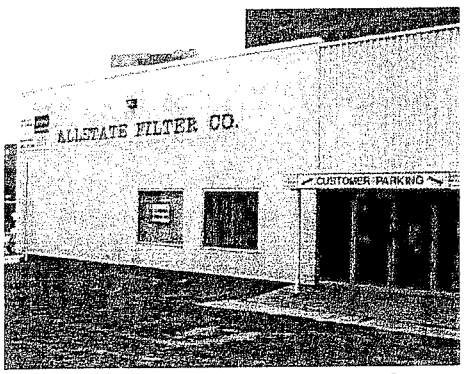

Figure 1 EPA Public Information Center

Anyone with questions regarding the dismantlement should feel free to visit the Public Information Center or contact EPA by telephone or e-mail.

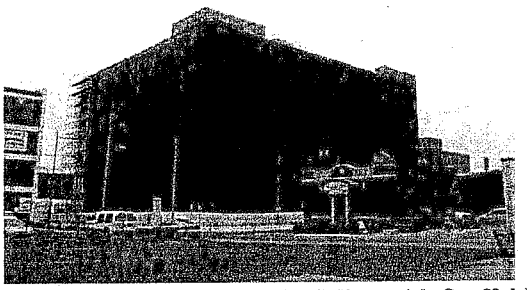

Figure 2 PCB Treatment Building with Scaffolding and Scrim

Work related to the dismantlement of the former PCB Treatment Inc. facility is ongoing. Construction crews mobilized to the site in November, 2004, to prepare the contaminated structure for controlled dismantlement. Initial activities included installation of traffic barriers and construction of a perimeter fence. Utilities formerly serving the building have been terminated or relocated. Scaffolding has been erected on the north and east sides of the structure to aid in dismantlement.

Completed work includes removal and disposal of asbestos-containing materials, PCB-containing electrical fixtures, and animal wastes from within the building. Most recently, construction crews have completed

the dismantlement of a large water tank located on the roof of the building. The dismantlement of the overall seven-story structure is scheduled to begin in early February, 2005. The dismantlement will proceed on a floor-by-floor basis, beginning at the roof and working downward.

Building debris will be conveyed to the ground floor for loading through interior shafts within the building. Dust suppression and air monitoring will be conducted during all phases of dismantlement and loading to assure that hazardous levels of potentially-contaminated dust are not released from the property.

Sections of the building concrete that contain elevated levels of PCBs have been clearly marked on interior surfaces, and will be removed and segregated prior to dismantlement of the non-contaminated sections of each floor. PCB-contaminated concrete will be loaded into covered trucks from the west side of the building, and transported for disposal to the BFI Lone Mountain facility in Waynoka, Oklahoma.

Non-contaminated debris will be loaded into covered trucks through a newly created access opening on the south side of the building. Non-contaminated building debris will be transported for disposal to the Courtney Ridge Landfill located in Sugar Creek, Missouri.

Truck traffic will primarily utilize Wyandotte, 22nd Street, and Fort Scott Streets to access the building. Loaded trucks will exit the property onto 21st Street, and utilize Central, 22nd Street and Southwest Boulevard to transport materials from the Site.

Following removal of above-ground elements of the building, work will continue to remove below-grade building components, except in cases where removal would threaten a collapse of adjacent areas. Soil testing will be performed following building removal to assure that unsafe levels of PCBs do not remain. Soil excavation will proceed until approved cleanup levels are achieved. Excavated areas will be restored to grade using clean backfill and covered with a gravel surface.

Construction activities at the 2100 Wyandotte site are anticipated to be completed in June, 2005. This schedule is dependent upon the severity of winter weather encountered. Following completion of site restoration, redevelopment of the restored land can proceed in accordance with private market conditions.

The cleanup of the building is being performed by a steering committee representing eleven former PTI customers, (the Steering Committee) under the oversight of EPA and state agencies. Twenty (20) federal agencies, also former PTI customers, have contributed their allocated share of the cost of the Site cleanup.

BACKGROUND

PTI began operations at 2100 Wyandotte Street, Kansas City, Missouri in 1982. A portion of the operation moved to 45 South Ewing Street, Kansas City, Kansas in 1984. Initial operations included decommissioning and storage of PCB-containing items. PCB oils and PCB-contaminated components were shipped offsite for incineration. Reusable metal was salvaged. PTI also performed a dechlorination process for PCB-contaminated oils.

PTI operated from 1982 until 1987, under authorizations issued by EPA pursuant to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Decommissioning and PCB removal activities were terminated in 1987, after TSCA authorizations were not renewed by EPA in late 1986. Between 1987 and 1991, the owner of the facilities attempted different methods to decontaminate the building structures. None of these attempts were successful at reducing PCB concentrations to required levels.

The more than 1,500 customers of PTI included the federal government, rural electric cooperatives, utility companies, cities, states,

and large and small businesses. The total weight of materials handled by PTI during their operation exceeded 25 million pounds. Site investigations concluded that portions of floors and walls at both facilities remain PCB-impacted in excess of required levels. PCB concentrations inside the 2100 Wyandotte facility were detected up to 23,800 parts per million (ppm). Adjacent soils were also found to contain PCBs.

SUPERFUND INVOLVEMENT

The PTI Site was referred to the EPA Superfund program in 1995. Superfund is the federal program with authority over the cleanup of abandoned and uncontrolled hazardous waste sites throughout the country.

Under the Superfund law, EPA is able to require those parties deemed responsible for the site contamination to perform cleanup work at the site.

OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST

The Freight House District surrounding the former PTI facility at 2100 Wyandotte, Kansas City, Missouri, is undergoing rapid redevelopment. New restaurants and other businesses are being established in close proximity to the Site. Newly opened residential lofts occupy the building immediately east of the 2100 Wyandotte building. The EPA will exercise heightened scrutiny of the work being performed to assure that releases of hazardous substances do not occur during the dismantlement.

The EPA is interested in the redevelopment of the Wyandotte property and, accordingly, is working with the City of Kansas City, Missouri and other interested stakeholders to coordinate the Site cleanup with the future redevelopment of the area. Dismantlement of the 2100 Wyandotte building will proceed as quickly as practicable to make way for the continued redevelopment of the Freight House District.

The EPA will prepare additional fact sheets as more information becomes available about the cleanup.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

EPA has established a Public Information Center at 2120 Wyandotte Street for the convenience of the community. If questions arise regarding the dismantlement of the building, EPA encourages the community to utilize the staff at the Public Information Center.

EPA also encourages community members to review the Administrative Record for the Site. A copy of the Site Administrative Record has been relocated from the EPA Regional Office to the newly opened Public Information Center until completion of the Site cleanup. The Administrative Record is also available for public review at the following locations during normal business hours:

Kansas City, Kansas
Main Public Library
625 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas

Kansas City, Missouri
Main Public Library
Government Documents
311 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri

If you have additional questions about this fact sheet or the Site, please contact:

Beckie Himes
Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
913-551-7003
Fax: 913-551-7063
E-mail: himes.beckie@epa.gov

Bob Feild
Project Coordinator
EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
913-551-7697
Fax: 913-551-9697
E-mail: feild.robert@epa.gov

Pauletta France-Isetts
Remedial Project Manager
EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
913-551-7701
Fax: 913-551-9701
E-mail: france-isetts.pauletta@epa.gov

Toll-free 1-800-223-0425

Or contact the EPA Public Information Center
located at 2120 Wyandotte Street at:

(816) 471-3310