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Fact Sheet

November 2003

Decision for No Further Cleanup

Former U.S. EPA Laboratory, Kansas City, Kansas

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 has determined that "No Further Corrective Action (Cleanup)" is necessary at the former EPA Laboratory. The former laboratory is located at 25 Funston Road in Kansas City, Kansas.

BACKGROUND

The main laboratory building was built in the early 1940s. The facility changed various times to meet the needs of the particular building occupant.
In 1989, the owner built a three-story addition to the side of the existing building and added five rooms on the south end of the existing building. The storage shed on the property was built as a boat storage facility in 1973.

The EPA Laboratory leased the property starting July 1, 1972. EPA used the facility as a full-scale analytical laboratory. Analyses of environmental samples, in support of field investigations, were conducted. Also, hazardous wastes were stored on-site in conjunction with Superfund site cleanup activities and emergency response activities.

PERMIT BACKGROUND

Then. . .

The EPA Laboratory submitted a form that described the types/amounts of hazardous wastes and how they would be stored on-site on November 17,1980. This form is known as a "Notification of Hazardous Waste Activity."

As a result, the EPA Laboratory submitted a Part A Permit Application on February 24, 1981, and a Part B Permit Application (including a revised notification and a Part A) for the storage of hazardous waste on September 11, 1984.

The Part A application requires basic information about the facility, such as name of owner and operator, location, and the hazardous waste that will be actually handled at the facility. The Part B application contains the details of the waste management activities that will occur at the facility.

The EPA Laboratory obtained a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste storage permit which was jointly issued by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and EPA. The permit contains two parts. Part I covers the base RCRA program and is regulated by KDHE. Part II covers the cleanup and is regulated by EPA. The permit became effective July 10, 1987. The permit was renewed March 4, 1999.

Now. . .

Prior to closure and cleanup activities, EPA Headquarters determined if there was any harm to the environment. This is formally known as an environmental assessment. The assessment was required under the National Environmental Policy Act. The assessment for closure and property transfer was shared with the public for comments. No public comments were received.

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RCRA RECORDS

During closure activities, an additional solid waste management unit, known as the former acid neutralization tank, was identified.

The neutralization tank contained wastes from laboratory practices. Chemicals were added to neutralize the wastes in order to transport them to the city's sanitary system.

The former acid neutralization tank is classified as a solid waste management unit (SWMU). A SWMU is a unit that manages and/or stores hazardous wastes. The SWMU is regulated by EPA under the corrective action portion of the permit and under the Clean Water Act.

The EPA Laboratory moved to a new location, so EPA needed to determine if cleanup was necessary at the former acid neutralization tank. The corrective action investigation revealed the need for corrective measures in this area. These measures consisted of sampling the contents of the tank, sampling adjacent soils, and removal of the tank, dioxin-contaminated sludge, and some of the surrounding soils.

The dioxin-contaminated sludge, the tank, and surrounding soils were shipped to a hazardous waste incinerator for proper disposal. Piping was replaced, and clean fill dirt was deposited in the excavated area. The area was seeded.

The cleanup started in December 2002, and ended in March 2003.

The EPA Laboratory modified the permit, known as a Class 1 Permit Modification, to do an early termination of Part II of the permit. Part II of the permit was terminated on October 29, 2003.

The new EPA Science & Technology Center does not store any hazardous waste; therefore, it does not require a hazardous waste permit.

If you have general questions or need additional information, please contact:

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