# EPA Adds New Site to the Superfund List

**Wilcox Oil Company Site**
**Bristow, Creek County, Oklahoma** **January, 2014**

**This fact sheet will tell you about:**

- **The National Priorities List (NPL)**
- **The Superfund Process**
- **The Wilcox Oil Company Site**
- **Current status**
- **Activities completed**
- **What happens next**
- **How EPA and ODEQ involve the public in cleanup decisions**
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**The National Priorities List**

The National Priorities List, or NPL, is a list of top priority sites to be addressed through the Superfund Law. Initially, 406 sites were listed when established in 1983, currently over 1,685 sites have been indentified and added to the list, while the EPA and the states continue to evaluate potential future sites. With the current rulemaking announcement, the added the Wilcox Oil Company Site to this NPL List on December 12, 2013.

**The Superfund Process**

The Superfund cleanup process begins with site discovery or notification to EPA of possible releases of hazardous substances. Sites are discovered by various parties, including citizens, State agencies, and EPA Regional offices. EPA then evaluates the potential for a release of hazardous substances from the site through a step-by-step process that includes site assessment, site inspections, and a ranking process to determine whether the site should be added to the NPL. Once on this list, EPA determines the best way to clean up the site to protect human health and the environment. Opportunities for community involvement occur throughout the process.

**The Wilcox Oil Company Site**

Wilcox Oil Company is an inactive and abandoned oil refinery located in Bristow, Creek County, Oklahoma. The site consists of contaminated areas and surface water bodies due to releases from the former Lorraine and former Wilcox Refineries. These former refineries operated from the mid 1920s to the early 1960s. The location of the releases from the two refineries is considered to be a single site composed of a commingled release from the combined refinery operations. The area of the former refineries is approximately 125 acres.

Major operational areas include the former Wilcox Oil Refinery, the Lorraine Refinery, and the product storage area (tank farm). Sources of contamination include contaminated soil, cooling ponds, and numerous tank bottoms. Contaminants of concern include metals and organic compounds in the former storage tank areas, surface soils, surface impoundment and sediments. Elevated levels of metals were also detected in three private residential wells on site, and from three wells adjacent to the property.

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**Current Status**

The EPA is working as the lead agency, in conjunction with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), to conduct the Superfund process.

**Activities Completed**

At this time the following actions have been completed:

- A Preliminary Assessment conducted by ODEQ in 2008.
- A Site Inspection conducted by ODEQ in 2009.
- An Expanded Site Inspection conducted by ODEQ in 2011.
- A Hazard Ranking System package completed by EPA in May 2013.
- Proposed to the NPL on May 24, 2013.
- Added to the NPL on December 12, 2013.

**What Happens Next**

EPA is currently searching for Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs).

A major goal of the Superfund program is to encourage PRPs to remediate hazardous waste sites. The enforcement process normally used by EPA to enlist PRP involvement may include five major efforts:

- First, EPA attempts to identify PRPs as early as possible.
- Second, EPA will encourage PRPs to do the remediation work at the site.
- Third, if EPA believes the PRPs are willing and capable of doing the work, EPA will attempt to negotiate an enforcement agreement. This type of agreement may take the form of an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC).
- Fourth, if a settlement could not be reached, EPA can use its authority to issue a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) or directly file suit against the PRPs.
- Fifth, if the PRPs do not perform the response action or no PRPs are available, the EPA will undertake the remediation work and will file suit against the PRPs when practicable.

This is called cost recovery, and it is a major priority under the Superfund program.

The enforcement process will lead to the completion of the Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS), which determines the nature and extent of contamination, evaluates risks, tests whether certain technologies are capable of treating the contamination, and evaluates the cost and performance of technologies that could be used to clean up the site.

Based on the results of the feasibility study, EPA will develop a Proposed Plan for cleaning up the site.

**How EPA and ODEQ Involve the Public**

- Request public comments on proposed clean up plans.
- Meet with the public, providing updates and Fact Sheets.
- Mail Fact Sheets to nearby residents and businesses.
- Provide information through Agency websites.
- Provide a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG).

A TAG is available to local citizens' groups to hire a technical advisor to interpret site studies or site-related health information for area residents.

**ATSDR Involvement**

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is the principal federal public health agency involved with

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hazardous waste issues. ATSDR advises the EPA, as well as other federal and state agencies, community members and other interested parties, on the health impacts of Superfund sites. The agency recommends actions that need to be taken to safeguard public health by issuing public health advisories, assessments and consultations.

**Contacts and More Information**

**Site Repository**

The docket for this Site (Docket ID No. EPA_HQ-SFUND-2013-0204) is available for review at the:

City of Bristow Public Library
111 West 7th St.
Bristow, OK 74010

**Internet Sites**

The EPA NPL site narrative is available online at:
*http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/nar1882.htm*

ODEQ site information is available online at:
*http://www.deq.state.ok.us/lpdnew/SF/Superfund%20Project/SF%20Site%20Summaries/WilcoxRefinery.html*

**Media Inquiries**

Inquiries from the media should be directed to the EPA Region 6 Press Office at 214.665.2200.

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