Trafalgar Road Fire, Bella Vista Arkansas

Issue:

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) requested EPA assistance in determining if any hazards were involved with an underground fire at the Trafalgar Road Fire (Brown Tree Care) site in Bella Vista on September 19, 2018. The site is the location of a stump dump where stumps, vegetation and possibly other materials have been dumped in the past.

Background:

Approximately August 1, 2018, the state began receiving calls in the area regarding the odor and the smoke coming from the site. In mid-September, EPA was asked to sample the air at the site and the surrounding area. EPA mobilized to the site in October and November for sampling on- and off-site. In the October/November sampling results, all semi-volatile and volatile organic compounds (VOC) were below their respective screening level except for benzene at the on-site location which exceeded the non-cancer screening level. Off-site, benzene doesn't appear to present an unacceptable health risk. EPA conducted additional VOC sampling the week of December 10th, 2018 and validated results will be received December 21.

Key Points:

- EPA sampled at the request of the ADEQ and the ADH – all results are being shared with local, state and elected officials.
- The local citizens and ADEQ have been in contact with both senators and the district's congressman
- The week of December 10th, EPA conducted three days of sampling for volatile organic compounds and monitoring of particulate matter. In addition, the Office of Research and Development (ORD) landfill fire expert visited the site on December 13-14.
- Based on the current sampling results, no off-site risks have been detected.

Talking Points:

- EPA was asked by the state of Arkansas to sample the site
- EPA has been in constant contact with the state agencies regarding their sampling plans and findings
- EPA will continue to support the state at the current time through additional sampling, providing technical assistance and expertise to the state as requested.

Questions:

Q1: When will the EPA's validated sampling results from the week of December 10, 2018 be available?
A1: December 21, 2018

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Q2: What assistance is EPA providing at the Trafalgar Road site?
A2: The State requested EPA provide sampling/technical assistance to assess the site fire, obtain a fire expert to provide potential options for site remediation, and identify on-site benzene monitoring options for the site. ORD visited the site on December 13-14, 2018 and a summary report regarding site alternatives was provided to the State on December 16.

Q3: Under what authority is EPA assessing the Trafalgar Road Site?
A3: EPA's Superfund removal program is providing technical assistance and sampling/ monitoring data to the ADEQ to determine the threats posed to public health at the site. Under CERCLA, an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment determination must be made for further Superfund action.

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